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Chancellor's tough stance on sterling

Gloomy Lamont rules out early interest rate cut

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN Lamont yesterday dashed hopes of an early cut in interest rates and gave a grim forecast of the short-term prospects for British industry.

Unemployment would continue to rise over the coming months, but there would be no escape from the tough disciplines of the European exchange-rate mechanism. The Chancellor also dampened hopes of tax cuts, saying the government's tight fiscal policy would continue.

Mr Lamont's first Commons speech since his appointment came as balance of trade figures showed that the recession was biting and as leading industrialists gave a warning that long-term damage to the economy was unavoidable. Figures to be published today will show that unemployment has risen for the eighth successive month.

Peter Brighton, director general of the Engineering Employers Federation, said that output and employment levels could be substantially lower next year, resulting in the loss of up to 60,000 jobs. The priority was to reduce inflation without putting all the burden on the manufac-



turing sector. "If manufacturing capacity is weakened as a consequence of the fight against inflation, there will be long term damage to the whole UK economy. Some such damage now seems unavoidable; the issue now is to minimise the damage."

Further evidence of the deepening recession came with the publication of balance of trade figures for the third quarter showing a sharp cut in Britain's foreign deficit. Increased exports suggest that British industry is looking for overseas markets in the face of depressed demand at home.

In the Commons, the Chancellor rejected "siren voices" suggesting that the exchange rate was too high and declared the government's determination to defend sterling's place within the ERM. He denied that he might attempt a hidden devaluation by moving to a narrower band.

The Chancellor acknowledged that British business was about to enter a testing time and that there had been a marked slowdown in the economy. Although the Treasury and outside forecasters had been predicting a relatively short recession, there could be no guarantee of that, he said.

Mr Lamont's remarks seemed calculated to stabilise sterling within its ERM band and so avoid the need for an embarrassing devaluation or potentially disastrous rise in interest rates to shore up the pound.

His clearest intention was to dampen growing speculation of a pre-Christmas cut in interest rates. A lot of people

Parliament, page 8
Deficit cut, page 28

Delors is still not convinced by Major

From PETER GUILFORD IN STRASBOURG

JACQUES Delors, the president of the European Commission, expects John Major to match his new conciliatory style on the European Community with a commitment to greater political integration when EC leaders gather in Rome tomorrow.

M Delors welcomed the prime minister's "change of style", but warned that he was unconvinced: "There is a difference between style and substance, and to see whether there is a change in substance, we shall have to wait and see."

He predicted that government leaders would sign a meaningful declaration by the end of the formal summit. This would give them a solid framework on which to begin their intergovernmental conference on political union on Saturday.

Such a declaration on political union would be "a lot less precise in the limits it sets" than the October declaration on monetary union, which so upset the government, M Delors admitted.

But he hoped it would provide a bedrock from which the community could establish a common foreign and security policy, extend the EC's powers, streamline its decision-making and strengthen the democracy of its institutions. The stage is set, however, for a conflict with

Continued on page 26, col 2

YITZHAK Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, said here yesterday that he welcomed "in principle" a Soviet proposal that a nuclear and chemical weapon-free zone, embracing both Iraq and Israel, be created in the Middle East once the situation in the Gulf is resolved.

The idea was floated by Edward Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, in Houston on Tuesday night after two days of talks with James Baker, the American secretary of state. Although the obstacles to creating such a zone would be immense, Mr Baker also expressed some sympathy with the concept.

Meanwhile, Britain last night decided to withdraw the last two diplomats in Kuwait, after the safe evacuation of nearly all Britons who wished to leave. Michael Weston, the ambassador, and Larry Banks, who stayed on after every other Western nation, includ-

ing the United States, had withdrawn its staff, will return within a week. They volunteered to continue manning the embassy but Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, evidently felt the risk was not justified. The Foreign Office estimated that 50 Britons remained in Kuwait. It urged those who want to leave to do so now.

Harold Walker, the British ambassador to Baghdad, is flying to London today to brief government ministers on the situation in Iraq. It will be his first trip back since his return to Baghdad from leave in August, shortly after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

On a day of bewilderment and complex diplomacy in Washington, President Bush was meeting Mr Shevardnadze at the White House late yesterday. He was expected to agree not only to send emergency medical supplies to the Soviet Union, but also tem-

porarily to waive long-standing trade restrictions, enabling Moscow to buy substantial quantities of badly-needed American grain on favourable credit terms to see it through the winter.

Ending the restrictions al-

together is contingent on Moscow legalising free emigration, which it has not done. But

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Trawler tragedy, page 3
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RAISED IN THE HIGHLANDS.



THE FAMOUS GROUSE
FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY

QUALITY IN AN AGE OF CHANGE.

Frank cashes in on the power sale equity

By MARTIN WALLER

AT LAST the shocking facts can be revealed: the man who made the biggest killing in the electricity privatisation, and without even filling in an application form, was Frank N. Stein, or at least the 6 ft 6 in actor who played him.

Clive Mantle, the star of the widely lauded advertising campaign, is thought to have walked away with not far short of £150,000 for his work on the 12-week advertising campaign thanks to the system of repeat fees negotiated by Equity for its members. The scale of such fees, which allow a payment every time a commercial is screened, have been an open secret in advertising circles but few insiders have been willing to discuss them for fear of antagonising the powerful actor's union.

Even now no one will say exactly how much Mr Mantle will finally be paid for

his six weeks' work at Shepperton film studios, where more than 20 commercials were filmed featuring Frank, his assistant, Igor, his family and their dog, Cuddles. As Mr Mantle appears in nearly all of them, he gets most of the fees, and the saturation coverage given the campaign should ensure his place as the Marion Brando of top earners in British television advertising.

The Central Office of Information, which handles government publicity campaigns, could not say how many times the commercials had been shown. "You are paid each time it's shown on each station, and each time you get a percentage of the booking fee you are given originally to turn up at the original shoot," a spokesman said.

Actors claim the repeat-fee system is one compensation for working in a profession which offers little job security

and long periods out of work. But the fees are just one aspect of the overworking which still prevails on the filming side of the advertising industry at a time when staff directly employed by the big agencies are being laid off in droves. Only a few big agencies have their own in-house film crews. The others are required to rely on a complex and expensive network of sub-contractors.

Mr Mantle's agent, Marjorie Abel, said the actor was unavailable for comment and currently considering offers of work for the new year. She would not know until the end of January how much he would earn from electricity, but she was "frankly amazed" at suggestions that it could go well into six figures. "He wouldn't want to discuss the financial side of it," she added.

Market report, page 30



Mantle: getting monster share from the campaign

One-day wonder Australian domination of England cricketers in the World Series Cup one-day competition lies in method and adaptability..... Page 36

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Waldegrave shuns 'supermarket' approach to NHS

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM Waldegrave, the health secretary, yesterday called for bridge building between doctors and politicians, and openly criticised the "supermarket" language used by his predecessor.

Mr Waldegrave's remarks in the Trafford Memorial Lecture to the Royal College of Surgeons were in marked contrast to the confrontational approach of his predecessor, Kenneth Clarke.

He said that his intention was "to build bridges between politics and the medical profession", and he emphasised that the commercial approach to the health service should not be overdone.

Mr Waldegrave, who has been actively courting both the royal medical colleges and the joint consultants committee in an attempt to gain their co-operation with the NHS reforms, said: "The NHS is not a business; it is a public service and a great one. I think we have overdone the language of commerce in relation to the NHS. We have been carried away by our enthusiasm for what we have borrowed and we have alarmed quite a lot of people who think we do not know the difference between a hospital and a supermarket."

"Our 'customers' do not come because the price of beans is less, or because of the pretty girl in the advertisement; they come because they are ill, not seldom frightened, and they want help and expect care," he continued. "You are not shopping for goods when your child's temperature goes suddenly to 106 and her eyes

have rolled upwards into their sockets; you want an expert and fast."

Earlier Duncan Nichol, the health service chief executive, disclosed that he had written to all general managers warning them that success of the internal market would depend on consultants and other professional staff being involved in all stages of drawing up the contracts.

Mr Nichol told journalists in London that about 280 family doctors are expected to become budget holders in April as part of the health service reforms. They will be given their budgets for buying hospital care at the end of February.

Although more than 450 GPs originally expressed serious interest in the scheme, those were whittled down to 350 earlier this year and the final figure is likely to drop to about 280 by April, after negotiations on budgets have taken place with regional health authorities.

As new statistics were published showing that the number of beds in England and Wales fell by 5 per cent between 1989 and 1990, Mr Nichol indicated that many of the 2,000 beds now closed in London might not reopen next year. It was important to reassess the picture once the internal market was operating, he said, but it might be that beds were reopened in the shires at the expense of those in inner London.

Mr Nichol would not be drawn on whether a London teaching hospital would close, but it might be that they want help and expect care," he continued. "You are not shopping for goods when your child's temperature goes suddenly to 106 and her eyes

have rolled upwards into their sockets; you want an expert and fast."

He emphasised that more people were being treated in fewer beds. The number of inpatients treated had risen by 2 per cent, while day cases had increased by 14 per cent, according to the latest statistical bulletin.

The King's Fund independent charity has set up a commission to develop a strategy for health services in London throughout the 1990s and beyond. The commission, which includes Baroness Julia Cumberlege, Marmaduke Hussey and Baroness Patricia Hollis, was set up to respond to the financial difficulties facing London and expected to worsen under the health service reforms.

He suggested that any further capital developments in the city should be flexible to allow for a fall in the number of patients.



Jones: new blood for Scotland Yard

Man in the News: Wyn Jones

High-flier who was destined for the top from the start

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

WYN Jones, now under investigation for alleged "improper police work", joined Scotland Yard six years ago as the youngest deputy assistant commissioner in the force's history, with the probability he would rise to become a chief constable or even the commissioner. Starting as a police constable in Gloucestershire, he was a chief superintendent by 36 and an assistant chief constable by the age of 40.

One of a trio of thrusting young provincial officers brought in to the Yard by Sir Kenneth Newman to inject new blood into the senior ranks, Mr Jones has earned a reputation as a man to be feared as much as admired. Tough, articulate and demanding, he has shown himself prepared to take decisions and defend them aggressively.

He joined the police at 19 and, early in his career, he was

marked as a high-flier and chosen for a special course for potential top officers. He took a law degree part-time.

Mr Jones spent much of his early career in Gloucestershire before moving to Thames Valley in 1976 to take command of policing in the area around Newbury. In the early 1980s, as an assistant chief constable, he worked under Sir Peter Imbert, now the commissioner and then chief constable of Thames Valley.

He came to London to run the support department for top level CID operations and, within a year, was deputy assistant commissioner in charge of policing much of east London. He was already well versed in the sort of controversial policing London can produce. As an assistant chief constable in the Thames Valley force, he had been responsible for the police operation at Greenham Common.

A few months after taking over the east London command, he was again facing difficult policing problems when the Wapping dispute between News International and the print unions erupted in January 1986. Police handling of a demonstration at the end of the dispute almost a year later brought an investigation, supervised by the Police Complaints Authority, into allegations of police brutality and mismanagement.

In September 1989, he became one of four assistant commissioners at the Yard and placed in charge of personnel and training.

Yard to investigate, page 1

High Court rejects Osman application

By BILL FROST

BRITAIN'S longest serving remand prisoner, Lorraine Osman, yesterday lost the latest round in his legal battle to avoid extradition to Hong Kong, where he faces trial on fraud charges.

Last week Mr Osman, a banker aged 56, began his sixth year in custody. He is being held in the maximum security wing at Brixton prison in south London.

Lord Justice Mann and Mr Justice Garland said in the High Court Mr Osman's claim that he was being made to stand trial in Hong Kong as a "scapegoat" was unsustainable, and rejected his fourth application for a writ of habeas corpus.

The judges said that his application was an abuse of the process of the court because all the grounds on which it had been based had been, or could have been, raised at the earlier High Court hearings.

Mr Osman's lawyers said they were considering an appeal to the House of Lords.

Hammond to go

Erik Hammond, general secretary of the Electrical, Telecoms and Plumbing Union since 1982, yesterday announced his intention to retire. Although not required to step down until 1994, Mr Hammond, aged 61, said he could not allow more than five years to pass without an election. Paul Gallagher, the president, is expected to emerge as a successor.

Head of steam

A steam railway has raised £172,000 in a share issue to improve its service. The North Yorkshire Moors Railway, which operates between Grosmont and Goathland, will use the money to build an exhibition centre and extend platforms. Shareholders will be repaid in travel concessions.

Green belt order

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, told Tameside borough council in Greater Manchester yesterday not to give permission for a £140 million development on the Manchester-Tameside border without first seeking special approval from his department. North West Water wants to build a business park, golf courses, private housing and leisure facilities on the stretch of green belt.

Chess title race

Gary Kasparov, the world champion, used the king's Indian defence in the 19th game of his defence against Anatoly Karpov in Lyon, France, last night. The opening developed into a race between Karpov's attack on the queen's wing and Kasparov's pressure on the king's side. After 18 moves Karpov had used 67 of his allotted minutes for the first 40 moves while Kasparov had used 72.

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Wife of Yorkshire Ripper 'evasive and dishonest'

By ROBIN YOUNG

SONIA Sutcliffe was yesterday accused of being evasive and dishonest when questioned in the High Court over an application for housing benefit.

Mrs Sutcliffe, wife of Peter Sutcliffe, who killed 13 women and became known as the Yorkshire Ripper, was completing her evidence on the eighth day of her libel action against the *News of the World* over an allegation that she had a holiday affair with a Greek tourist company director.

Mrs Sutcliffe was questioned for more than half an hour by George Carman, QC, counsel for the newspaper, about a form claiming housing benefit which she sent to Bradford council while there was £23,800 in an account in her name with the Newcastle Building Society. The money came from £25,000 paid by *The Yorkshire*

Post in the unpublicised settlement of a breach of copyright case.

Mrs Sutcliffe agreed that she had filled in the benefit claim form stating the amount of capital she had as none. Asked why she did not declare the money in the building society account she replied: "Because I truly believed I did not have it at my disposal."

Mrs Sutcliffe said: "I am not a businesswoman. Finance accountancy is not an expert field of mine. I was leaving this area with my solicitors to deal with. I thought all my money had been distributed legally, spent, used, or affected for future purposes."

Mr Carman asked repeatedly for a straight answer. Mrs Sutcliffe insisted that she had filled the form to the best of her knowledge, saying that she did not believe the money was hers, and that she had

no idea of the amount. "I presumed it was trifling amount." She also said: "The true answer is that I thought if there was any money it would not be there long enough to affect the housing benefit."

Mr Carman suggested that her evidence had been "completely evasive and dishonest", and suggested that it tied in with a claim by Barbara Jones, a journalist, that Mrs Sutcliffe had asked her to pay the *Post's* £25,000 into her account so that her benefit would not be affected.

Mr Carman suggested that Mrs Sutcliffe had chosen to keep the money as a fighting fund to pursue legal actions against newspapers. Mrs Sutcliffe said that without money she could not stop them blackening her name. She had not said that it was exactly a fighting fund "but I suppose it can be construed in that manner".

Mrs Sutcliffe told her counsel, Geoffrey Shaw, that when she read two chapters of a book written about her by Miss Jones: "I was shocked and I was horrified and I wept, and I am not a person who easily weeps." She said she had turned down "enormous offers of money" to sell her story after her husband's arrest. The *News of the World* had offered £110,000. "I had accepted one of these offers."

Mike Gold, a former business partner and friend of George Papoutsis, the man with whom Mrs Sutcliffe was claimed to have had a sizzling affair, said that he had known Mr Papoutsis to "chat up" young women occasionally, but on the night he saw him with Mrs Sutcliffe "if he was chatting her up he was having a disastrous time. She was totally withdrawn, depressed. I think she hardly uttered a word. Miserable would probably be the best description."

He was told by Mr Papoutsis, who was a psychologist, that Miss Jones was writing a book about Mrs Sutcliffe and wanted his professional opinion of Mrs Sutcliffe. "He said that in his professional opinion she was aware that her husband was the Yorkshire Ripper well before the police arrested him."

Mr Gold said he had asked Mr Papoutsis if he was "screwing" Mrs Sutcliffe and if he had received any money for the *News of the World* article. He replied no to both questions.

Mr Gold: "I also asked him if he had been screwing Barbara Jones."

Mr Shaw: "And what did he say?"

He said yes".

The hearing continues today.

Doors 'left open' on day of Deal bomb

By RAY CLANCY

THE room at the Royal Marines' school of music at Deal, Kent, where a terrorist bomb exploded, was left unlocked in spite of a state of high security because the key was broken, the inquest into the deaths of 11 bandmen was told yesterday.

It was well known that it was easy for an intruder to get into the barracks over several low walls. A terrorist could have been in the room where the device was planted in 30 seconds, the inquest at Dover was told.

The bomb, which exploded on September 22, 1989, was placed under a sofa in the recreation block which was used as a coffee room by bandmen. There were two entrances, a pair of double swing doors into a foyer and another door at the far end to the changing rooms, which was always secured at night.

Corporal Robert Gibbs, who was responsible for locking up at 4 pm the day before the explosion, said he secured the doors to the barracks who were responsible for checking identity cards at the main gate, undertaking patrols, and dealing with unauthorised persons.

Robert Clark, a district manager with the company, said it was clear when the firm's contract began in January 1988 that there was room for improvement in the security of the perimeter walls, but it was not the firm's responsibility to do so.

The inquest continues today.

Fresh sorrow comes to a stricken fishing community

THE six crewmen of the fishing boat Premier, lost off the coast of Shetland yesterday morning, should have sailed back to port this Saturday with their last catch of white fish before Christmas. Last night, their families were in a state of shock.

The men from Hopeman, Lossiemouth and Burghhead were the latest victims in a seemingly endless list of tragedies that have scarred the fishing communities along the northeast coast of Scotland for centuries. It is estimated that more than 140 men have perished off the northern coasts of Scotland in the past 20 years alone.

A fortnight before Christmas, another nine children are feared to be fatherless and five women are thought to be widows. Deep sea fishing is one of the most dangerous professions in the world, as graveyards along the

More than 140 men have drowned off northern Scotland in 20 years, Kerry Gill reports. Now six more are feared dead

Moray coast prove. In spite of the appalling weather that regularly drives down the North Sea those waiting along the Grampian coast refused to give up hope last night.

Sandy Main, whose son, also Sandy, aged 26, was feared drowned, said: "We have to wait and hope, but I don't think there is much hope. The boat would have turned turtle and given them no chance."

More than 20 years ago, Mr Main and other men from Burghhead searched in vain for survivors of the Rosebud when it sank off Oban. "I was looking for

men lost at sea then. Now I am waiting for one of my own," he said.

Peggy Edwards, mother of Ned Edwards, the Premier's skipper, from Hopeman, said: "We are just waiting and praying they got to the lifeboats and that they can still be found." She has lost three sons, Ned, Joseph and Neil, whose wife is expecting their second child. He decided to go at the last minute. Mrs Edwards' husband John, a retired fisherman, collapsed with shock.

Twelve years ago this month, Hopeman lost nine men when the Acacia Wood capsized. A former owner of the Premier lost a brother, an uncle and a nephew in that tragedy. Since then 50 men from the village have been lost.

Few people in the fishing villages are left unclothed by deaths at sea. Most families have been fishing for generations, but in

recent years the job has become more dangerous. In the past, most boats fished for herring and a vessel could be back in port within the day. Since the herring cutbacks in the 1970s, however, the fishermen have had to travel hundreds of miles to find white fish.

Fishing boats can be lost in seconds. In 1981, the Celerity was caught in a storm in the Pentland Firth. There was a sudden snow storm and, when it cleared, the vessel had vanished. Sandy Bruce, the skipper, and his crew from Buckie were drowned. Buckie, 12 miles from Lossiemouth, has lost 24 men since June 1979.

The Rev John Stuart, Hope-man's Church of Scotland minister, said: "The villages are devastated by the news, particularly coming so close to Christmas." The village's Baptist minister, the Rev Bill Orr, said:

Six missing, page 1



Young achiever: Yvonne Mcqadi, aged 19, from Bounds Green, north London, was presented with a trophy and a certificate by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher yesterday.

Messa, has done well academically, and works for Cleveland county council as a computer programmer. She was presented with a cut glass bowl and a cheque for £500

Mother stabbed in tussle

By NICHOLAS WATT

A BRITISH mother was stabbed in Cairo as she tried to take her three children from their Egyptian grandfather, police said yesterday.

Pamela Green, aged 37, from London, who has been fighting her Egyptian-born husband for custody of the children, was aware that her husband was the Yorkshire Ripper well before the police arrested him."

Mr Gold said he had asked Mr Papoutsis if he was "screwing" Mrs Sutcliffe and if he had received any money for the *News of the World* article. He replied no to both questions.

Mr Gold: "I also asked him if he had been screwing Barbara Jones."

Mr Shaw: "And what did he say?"

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Treasure hunters keep gold ring

By PETER DAVENPORT

THREE treasure hunters were told by a coroner last night that they could keep an ancient solid gold ring uncovered in a field close to the spot where the famous Middleham Jewel, sold for £1.4 million, was found five years ago.

A jury decided that the ring, dating to the Middle Ages and with possible connections with the Lancaster kings of England, was not a treasure trove and therefore should not be handed over to the Crown. After the verdict, one of the men said the ring, not yet formally valued, would be sold at auction. They hoped that it would realise a price close to that achieved by the Middleham Jewel.

The ring was found by Bobby Angus, aged 50, a piper from Hartlepool, on land at Park Farm,

Middleham, North Yorkshire, during a metal-detecting rally. He was sweeping the field, accompanied by a fellow enthusiast, Brian Snowdon, aged 63, a welder, also from Hartlepool, and the ring was found three inches below the surface.

A report on the origins and history of the ring by John Cherry, an expert on medieval jewellery with the British Museum, was read to the inquest at Leyburn, North Yorkshire, yesterday. The report, read to the jury by Sheila Hartley of the Yorkshire Museum, said that the ring could date to the late 14th century.

A gothic inscription inside the ring read "Sovereignty" which was said to mean either to a supreme degree or with supreme powers, as in sovereign. On the outside of the ring were 12 raised S's, the sign of the House of Lancaster.

In his report, Mr Cherry concluded that the ring, made of 93.8 per cent gold and weighing 10.5 grammes, was likely to have belonged to a supporter of the Lancasters kings of England in the 15th century.

After the jury returned a verdict that the ring had been lost and therefore belonged to the finder, Mr Angus said that any proceeds from the sale would be split between himself, Mr Snowdon, James Pincher, the rally organiser, and the farmers who own the land, Peter and Terry Walton. "Any money we get is just a bonus because the real joy is that I have found a piece of history. It is a beautiful ring, nearly 600 years old and I believe it was worn by a king."

Jeremy Cave, the coroner, commended Mr Angus for obeying the law and promptly handing his find over to the authorities. "This is not a treasure trove so I do not have the glee of announcing I am seizing it for the Crown."

Boat race may be lost to the small screen

By JOHN LEWIS

MANY television viewers may lose the right to watch the Oxford and Cambridge boat race, the Commonwealth Games and the early rounds of Wimbledon after moves to drop them from the ten major sports events protected by the government.

If the moves were successful, promoters would be able to buy the exclusive rights for pay-per-view screenings in cinemas across the country, at large venues such as Wembley or on satellite television.

Peter Lloyd, the new broadcasting minister, is writing to the BBC, the Independent Television Commission, sports organisations which hold the television rights of important events, the Sports Council and the Central Council for Physical Recreation about the proposals.

He is emphasising, however, that they are subject to consultation. There has already been opposition.

Robin Corben, the shadow broadcasting minister, said: "The importance of these national events is that something like 97 out of every 100 viewers watch one or all of them. They are among the most popular events on television and they do have a special place in our national life."

It was vital, he said, to preserve open access for all those who enjoyed watching them. "In the long term the proposals could also damage sport because it will cut audiences and could affect gates. If there is a restricted audience this could also discourage youngsters from taking an active part in sport."

Denis Howell, the shadow sports minister, said it was extraordinary to suggest that the first week of Wimbledon should be tendered. "At present the BBC mounts a mammoth operation for two weeks, and to propose to chop it in half is quite incredible," he said.

John Carlisle, chairman of the Conservative backbench sports committee, said he welcomed any lifting of restrictions. "The public may have enjoyed these sports for a long time, but it may also have not been getting the best coverage," he said.

There were further strong protests both in the Commons and the Lords when the government weakened the protection of the ten events in the Broadcasting Act, which gave royal assent last month.

BBC job cuts save £2.5m

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK

MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC is saving £2.5 million by shedding 91 television production jobs in Bristol. Production budgets in the southwestern region are also being cut by 10 per cent.

The move, which comes after the BBC Midlands region announced 80 redundancies, is part of a strategy to save £75 million annually by 1993 to fund a more competitive pay structure. There have been 100 redundancies in network radio, 802 in network television, 184 in engineering and 266 in regional broadcasting.

Broadcasting unions forecast over 2,000 job losses in network television as a result of the government's requirement that 25 per cent of programmes must be made independently by 1993.

• The BBC has made Margaret Salmon, Burton group's personnel director, the first female member of the board of management.

In 1965, disgraceful house building caused a public outcry. Parliament and lenders agreed to support the NHBC.

Police campaign to improve ways of questioning suspects

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

POLICE have launched a campaign to improve their questioning techniques in response to research which shows that many officers have little idea how to conduct an interview and often appear more nervous than suspects.

Admitting that their approach to date has been far too haphazard and unscientific, senior officers want all officers, uniformed and plain-clothed, to receive standard training in interviewing. Research on how to identify and question suggestible suspects will be stepped up.

A study of more than 7,000 interviews conducted by police from various forces found that, while it is rare for police to attempt to trick suspects into making confessions, detectives are often chaotic in their approach and capitulate at the slightest obstacle.

A research paper, outlining the study, says: "In a significant number the allegation was never put to the suspect. In others the questioning appeared to lack basic preparation and planning. Many of

the officers seemed more nervous than the suspect."

About 16 per cent of suspects exercised their right of silence, the decision in each case depending on the seriousness of the offence, the suspect's criminal record and, most importantly, whether the arrested person was able to gain legal advice before the interview. Of those who had not seen a solicitor before the interview only 5 per cent remained silent, but of those who had 33 per cent refused to answer questions.

The research, conducted

with the help of psychologists from Kent university, showed that aggressive questioning was now far less common and that the trend was towards a bland, information-gathering style. That does not seem to have caused a rise in the proportion of suspects who deny offences.

Of a sample of 1,067 interviews conducted last year by Metropolitan police officers, 42 per cent of suspects made confessions, roughly the same number denied the allegations and 16 per cent remained



Priority on suicide prevention

PRISON officials have been told by the home secretary to redouble their efforts to reduce suicides by prisoners (Quentin Cowdry writes). Kenneth Baker said that preventive measures should be given high priority.

Governors have been told to conduct more regular and thorough reviews of suicide-prevention plans. They are also to receive guides outlining the importance of inmates receiving proper assessments on entering jail and of staff maintaining scrupulous checks on prisoners regarded as at risk. The move, which

comes as ministers face growing public concern about the number of suicides, was welcomed by penal reformers. Some, however, claimed that Mr Baker's announcement was driven more by the prospect of the imminent publication of two highly critical reports by the Prisons Inspectorate.

• A Labour government would introduce a court inspectorate, a sentencing council and a special tribunal to investigate alleged miscarriages of justice, Roy Hattersley, the shadow home secretary, said yesterday.

Visiting time: Angela Rumbold, the Home Office minister responsible for the prison system, at Pentonville prison in north London, yesterday, on the latest of her fact-finding visits to English jails. With her is the prison governor, William Abbott. The prison, a low-security establishment serving London and the South-East, holds about 900 adult male prisoners who are either on remand or serving short medium to long-length to medium-term sentences.

Lawyers refuse legal aid work because of pay

The Law Society says that legal aid is no longer available in some parts of Britain, Frances Gibb reports

in central London, do. It is an increasing problem."

James Purie, of Russell Jones and Walker, described the "ripple" effect in which big City firms passed their legal aid clients to him. A fifth of his caseload is now referrals from other firms, and he is one of the biggest sources of work, he said.

"It's reached the point where I cannot take on any more cases — I already do a 60-hour week. So I have to pass them on again to firms further out and, almost certainly, the firms I pass them to will have to pass them on in turn."

His net pay on a legal aid case works out at £31 an hour, Mr Purie said. "This compares with the hourly charging rate of £91 an hour that I need to charge just to break even and cover overheads and salaries. So I have to do three times as much work under the legal aid scheme to break even."

Roger Smith, director of the Legal Action Group, which represents lawyers and advice workers handling legal aid, said: "There is certainly a problem in some parts of the country in finding a legal aid practitioner specialised in fields such as housing, employment or immigration." The problem was not just payment. "It is a mixture of pay, the training of legal aid lawyers and their expectations of legal aid practice — firms do not devote their resources to developing expertise in these fields."

The question of access to justice and the growing number of people who are excluded from legal aid or from the courts because they cannot afford to pay lawyers privately is now being taken up by the Consumers' Association. David Tench, its legal director, said: "We are concerned about legal aid. Whereas, up to now, who gets legal aid and who does not has largely been a matter of fiscal policy, things are now such that legal aid has become a major issue of access to justice."

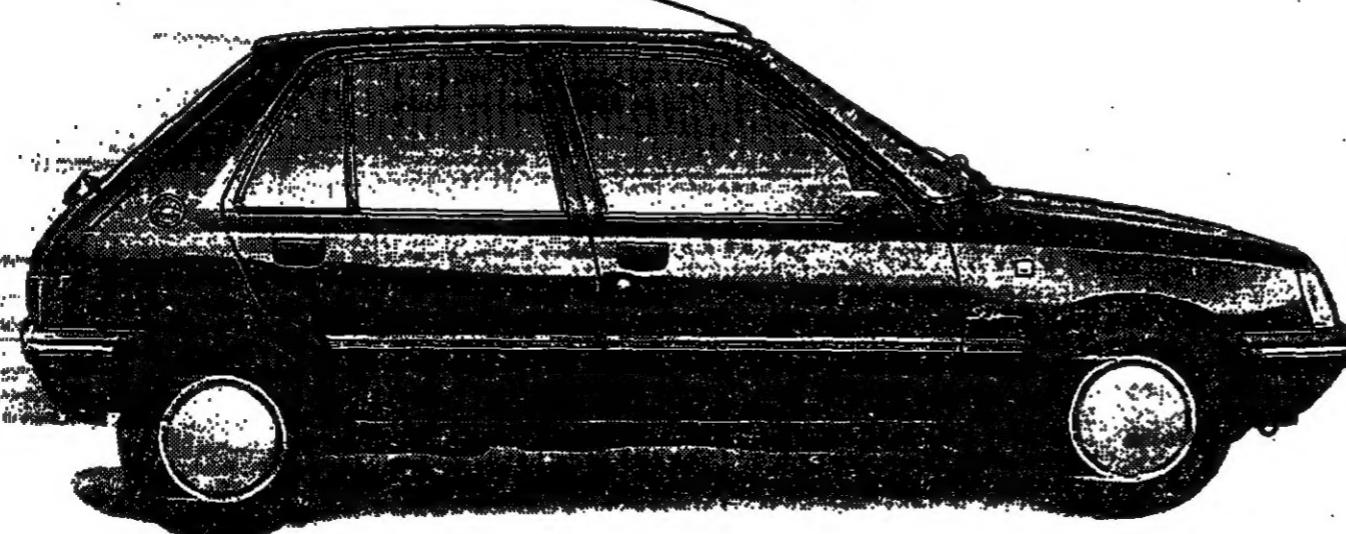
Recently, the Lord Chancellor said that there would be no extra money for the legal aid scheme. Mr Tench said: "We feel it is important therefore to ensure that the money is being well spent. We intend to start a study to see where the money goes and to see if it could be better targeted."

Leading article, page 15

"Surely it's about time that buying a diesel was as economical as running one."

Message understood

The new Peugeot Special Edition Style diesels



Diesels have always been economical to run, but a higher purchase price has often been a barrier to buying one. Now Peugeot, the world's leading diesel manufacturer, have introduced the 205 and 309 Style diesels which — together with two major financial offers — make buying a diesel even more economical. Style diesels start from an attractive £7,430*.

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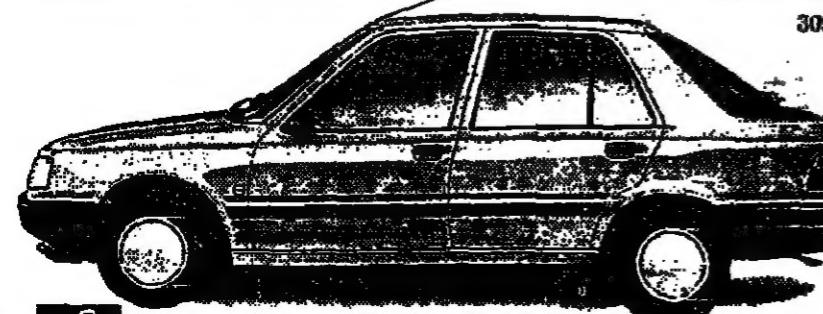
*Price for 309 Style D excluding 6 months road tax, number plates and delivery - estimated cost £400.

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Government urged to help tribunals

THE Government was urged yesterday to provide for a "selective extension of legal aid" for tribunals, the lack of which has been consistently described as a blot on the justice system.

The call came from the Council on Tribunals in its annual report (Frances Gibb writes). The council says that its case for legal aid, which it has raised with the Lord Chancellor and the Legal Aid Board, has now been given added weight with the findings of the Green report last year. That provided "incontrovertible evidence" of the importance of legal representation before tribunals and therefore made it a matter of urgency.

With the Legal Aid Board, it should develop a scheme for the provision of advice, assistance and representation at tribunals and if extra funding is needed then it should be provided.

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Demands grow for no-fault medical compensation

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major's decision to award an extra £42 million to haemophiliacs infected with the Aids virus has renewed demands for an overhaul of the present system of compensating victims of medical accidents.

The government agreed to pay 1,200 haemophiliacs and their families for the pain, suffering and financial hardships they experienced because blood products used on haemophiliacs had been contaminated by the Aids virus. It did not await a court verdict on whether medical negligence was proven.

Thousands of other people who have been disabled or brain-damaged after medical intervention are awaiting the outcome of legal battles to prove negligence. The court cases, many of which continue for years after the patient or doctor involved has died, are prohibitively expensive for most would-be litigants, apart from the minority entitled to legal aid.

Nicholas Almond, aged ten, from Leeds, won £1,156,000 damages in the High Court earlier this year after he was born with cerebral palsy. He attends a normal school but he cannot sit or stand unaided, and his speech is badly impaired. He needs expensive computer equipment to enable him to write. Day-care costs, including speech therapy and physiotherapy, now amount to £30,000 a year.

The health authority admitted liability early on. Nicholas's mother had been left in labour too long at Leeds maternity hospital and the oxygen supply to his brain was obstructed. It took the Almond family nine years, however, to obtain compensation.

There is a growing band of support for a system of no-fault compensation under which all victims of medical accidents would get state support irrespective of whether medical negligence can be proved.

The number of claims has escalated in the past few years as patients have become more aware of their rights to legal redress. Some doctors are beginning to practice defensive medicine — carrying out too many tests, or not intervening when they should — to avoid litigation.

An estimated 4,500 new claims

are brought every year, roughly ten per 100,000 population. At the same time, the size of the awards has increased from a high of £100,000 in 1977 to £1 million in 1987. Awards for similar injuries are often inconsistent. A child who suffers brain damage due to obstetric mismanagement, for example, could get £500,000 to £700,000, whereas a child suffering brain damage after vaccination might get £20,000.

The rising cost of medical insurance premiums for doctors led to the transfer of indemnity costs from the medical defence unions to health authorities. From January 1 this year doctors have been protected by Crown indemnity and health authorities have to pay legal costs and the awards granted, where negligence is proven. So far, they have been able to draw on a central fund transferred from the defence societies to pay for claims over £300,000, but this is expected to run out by the end of next year.

The first £1 million claim a self-governing hospital will have to pay out will bankrupt it. Yet the move to give responsibility for indemnity to the National Health Service paves the way for a system of no-fault compensation. Under such a system compensation payments might be lower, but fairer, and more people would benefit. Awards would probably be set for care under the NHS rather than the private sector as they are now.

Last week Rosie Barnes, independent Social Democrat MP for Greenwich, presented a private member's bill on no-fault compensation, which has all-party support. Her bill would ensure that a person suffering from an injury or unnecessary pain during NHS care would be awarded compensation without having to prove negligence.

This week Sir Donald Acheson, the government's chief medical officer, and the Royal College of Physicians joined the calls for a no-fault scheme. In its report, *Compensation for Adverse Consequences of Medical Intervention*, published on Monday, the college outlined its no-fault compensation scheme. Cause would not have to be proved by the courts, but would be decided by a medical board, probably set up by the health and



Nicholas Almond, who was born with cerebral palsy, received £1,156,000 compensation this year after a nine-year battle

social security departments.

Awards would be capped to make the system affordable. Prospective loss of earnings, for example, would be limited to average net earnings and non-economic damages, such as pain and suffering. Awards would also be capped.

The system could be topped up by insurance schemes which the college suggests should be tax-deductible. Lump-sum payments would be strictly limited and, wherever practicable, periodic payments, reviewed at stated

intervals, would be made.

The system is likely to be opposed by some members of the legal profession who would lose out if compensation was no longer decided by the courts. The Association of Victims of Medical Accidents fears that a no-fault system will let doctors off the hook. "Many of our clients are not after financial compensation.

They merely want an explanation of why something happened," it said yesterday.

Letters, page 15

Cash shortage forces review of research programmes

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

SHORTFALLS in financial support are forcing the Medical Research Council to undertake a serious appraisal of its research programmes. Dai Rees, secretary of the council, said it might be forced to postpone or cancel planned initiatives in Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, human nutrition and the link between genetic defects and heart disease and cancer.

Dr Rees, introducing the council's annual report yesterday, said

that he expected a £5 million shortfall next year. Considerable agitation and pain were inevitable, he said. "It may not sound a lot in a budget of £190 million but when you start looking at where you can make savings, you get concerned."

Two developments were now on a knife edge, he said. One was a proposed £10.5 million building for the Dunn nutrition unit in Cambridge, to be funded by industry and the council. That was an important project because of the importance of diet to health and the introduction of novel

foodstuffs which needed testing. However, neither the food industry nor the council was finding it easy to produce the money.

Another project at risk was a plan to set up with the British Diabetic Association a centre of excellence in diabetic research at a university. Plans were advanced with several universities showing interest, but it now seemed likely that they would have to be scaled down. "We are considering what is the minimum sum we can spend to develop something worthwhile," Dr Rees said. The council

is closing three units this year and will not rule out more closures next year. Directors of units have been told to freeze appointments, not to spend money allocated for apparatus and to reduce spending on consumable items. Dr Rees admitted, however, that the council would not escape until the financial climate improved and would have to look at long-term as well as short-term commitments. The cut-off point for funding projects would have to become even more stringent.

The financial review forced on

Innovative scheme pays out fairly and promptly

From RICHARD LONG
IN WELLINGTON

NEW ZEALAND'S no-fault accident compensation scheme, established in 1974, was a world first and regarded as an innovative piece of social welfare.

An accident compensation commission provides prompt, fair and reasonable compensation to every accident victim. This superceded the legal rights for individuals to sue through the courts for damages in cases of negligence.

The third Labour government, which introduced the scheme, argued that the system was more logical than redress via litigation, which snarled up the courts and often provided more money for lawyers than victims.

While the scheme has in general won wide acceptance, employers have questioned their ever-growing levies. Inconsistencies and absurdities in pay-outs have also been criticised. On one occasion a prisoner was awarded more than £10,000 in compensation when he was injured falling off a prison wall while trying to escape.

The New Zealand scheme arose from a royal commission of enquiry on compensation for personal injury, which reported in 1967. The philosophy behind the scheme was that the community should accept responsibility for accidents. Total expenditure of £300 million a year is funded by levies on employers and the self-employed paid through the inland revenue. Levies on motor vehicle owners paid at the time of registration, and general taxation.

The benefits include earnings-related compensation at the rate of 80 per cent of normal average earnings, with a maximum cut-off and adjustments for partial incapacity or loss of potential earnings. There are lump sums for permanent physical impairment, loss of enjoyment of life, for pain and suffering and/or disfigurement, medical rehabilitation and re-training expenses, and funeral expenses and compensation to dependants in the case of fatal accidents.

Initially the scheme was administered by a three-man commission, but this was changed in 1980 to a commission of not more than six government-appointed members.

As well as providing rehabilitation and compensation for accident victims, the accident compensation commission is charged with promoting safety in the workplace.

Calls for normal environment for disabled workers

In spite of 40 years' successful work by Remploy, the employment agency for the disabled, there are calls for schemes to encourage more firms to take on handicapped staff. Paul Wilkinson reports

ROYAL approval for the work of Remploy, the employment agency for the disabled, will be cemented today when the Queen tours one of its factories in Action, west London.

She will be fulfilling a promise to celebrate the factory's 40th anniversary, scheduled for last year but postponed because she had influenza. The visit, however, comes at a time when the disabled in a specialist environment is under close government scrutiny.

New Year's Eve is the closing date for observations on an employment department review published this summer, *Employment and Training for People with Disabilities*. The review, the department said, "looked at the relevance and effectiveness of government services to the disabled in the Nineties, having regard to demographic changes, development of the service sector and the trend towards self-employment".

One of the proposals canvassed is a move away from such purpose-built centres for handicapped workers as that at Action, where 90 disabled people produce packaging for industry, to the sheltered placement scheme which provides jobs at ordinary workplaces.

Remploy was set up at the end of the second world war by a government anxious to show its disabled servicemen that their sacrifice had not been in vain and that they would not be forgotten in peacetime. Today, however, the workforce is as likely to be made up of people with mental handicaps as physical. It has a £100 million turnover, employing 9,000 people in 93 factories across the country, and provides a variety of goods ranging from furniture to food.

To keep pace with the intense competition of today's business world Remploy has had to produce and market its goods as professionally as any other business. Production costs, however, are higher. Wages are paid on union-agreed scales, but the difference is made up by employment department funding last year amounting to £57 million.

A mark of Remploy's new efficiency can be seen by a comparison with 1985, when it had a grant of £46 million and a turnover of £56 million.

Similar schemes for about 5,000 more disabled people are run by several charities and local authorities, but the government would be happier if more money was spent on its sheltered placement scheme. About 6,500 people are employed in that way and government research indicates that those workers can cost the Treasury as little as a tenth of those in a purpose-built establishment.

Such charities as the Spastic

Society are anxious that the scheme should be expanded, although it acknowledges that some workers will always need the support of a Remploy-style environment.

Brian Lamb, the society's head of campaigns, said: "For once we are in tune with the government over something that could bring greater integration with able-bodied people and greater involvement in community care."

Remploy, however, said it was concerned that a reduction in its work could lead to an increase in the numbers of unemployed mentally handicapped people wandering the streets.

Employers of more than 20 staff are required by law to ensure that 3 per cent of their workforce are registered disabled, but in practice few achieve the target. The employment department's review suggests

● For once we are in tune with the government to bring greater integration with the able-bodied

that it is difficult to justify such an "ineffective" law, especially as only 1 per cent of the workforce is registered disabled. Many disabled groups fear that the quota will be abandoned as a consequence or at least scaled downwards.

Mr Lamb said that the argument should be turned on its head, with the percentage increased and employers given financial incentives to co-operate. In Germany, he said, the quota was 6 per cent. Employers received equipment modification grants to enable handicapped people to operate machinery.

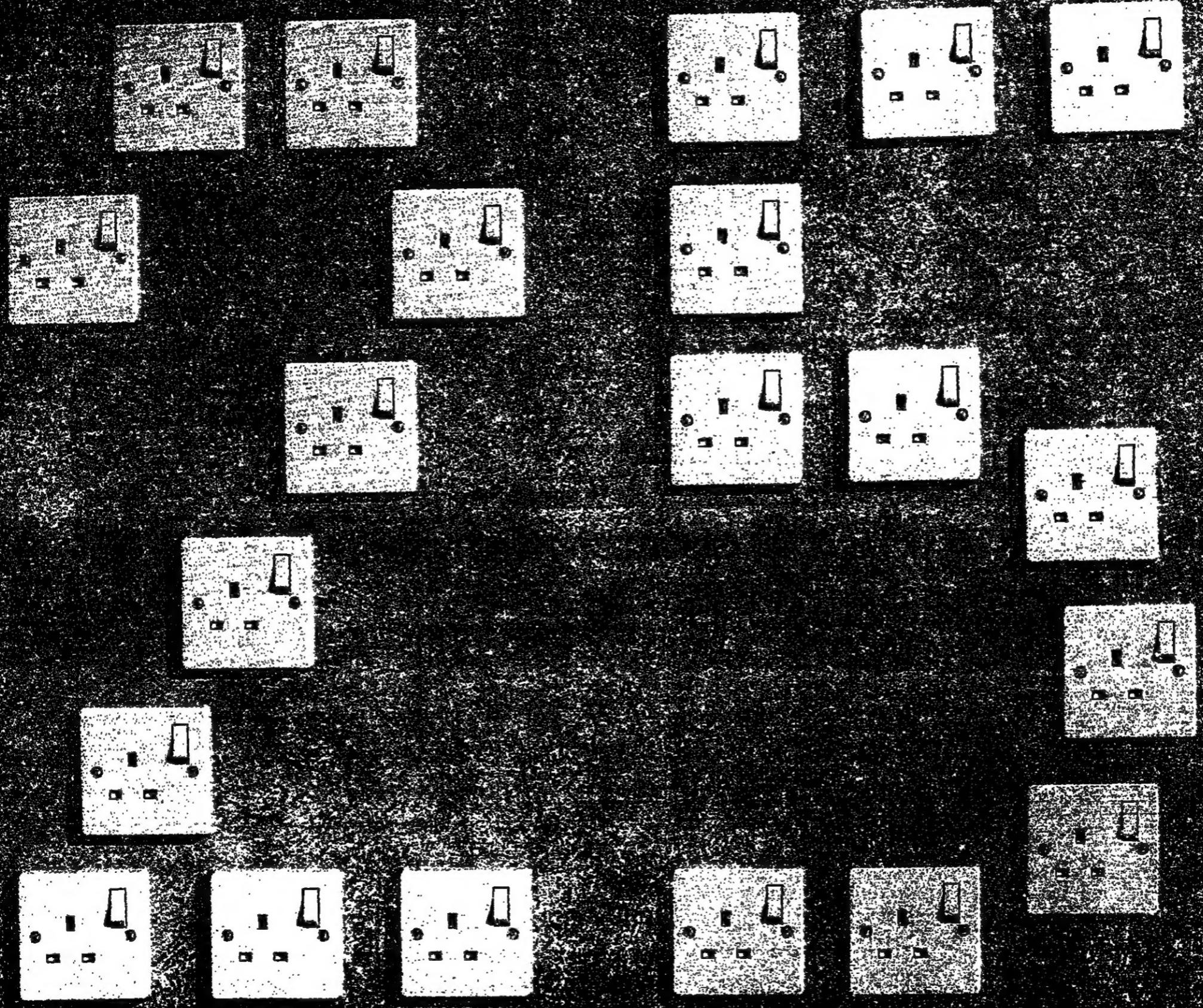
He also claimed that the figure for registered disabled people was so low because there was no incentive to be registered. "Many more people would register if they thought it was worth their while. At present they are no better off if they do and consequently they see no reason to."

Remploy said it believed it had nothing to fear from changes in the system. "Virtually all of the 9,000 people we employ could not be found work outside our factories and we already run a similar placement scheme called Interwork, which employs around 500 people."

The agency was adamant that the quota system should continue and companies be given incentives to make sure that they employed the correct percentage, which did not happen at the moment. One way, it added, would be for companies to be compelled to state the figures when publishing their annual reports.

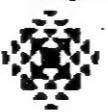
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 PO Box No. 168, Glasgow, G3 6EH. Both companies expect to be floated on the Stock Exchange in May or June 1991, when it will be possible for members of the public to apply for shares.

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Prince attacks water industry over sewage incineration

By JOHN YOUNG

THE Prince of Wales yesterday condemned plans by the water industry to incinerate sewage sludge and called for a more positive attitude to a potentially valuable resource. Otherwise, he feared, the industry would fail one of its first challenges since privatisation.

The prince's remarks were clearly directed at Thames Water which recently announced a plan to spend £200 million on two incineration plants at Beckton, east London, and Canford Heath, Kent. This follows the government's decision to end sewage dumping at sea.

"Sadly, all the indications are that there is a distinct lack of interest in some quarters of your industry in the idea of sewage sludge as a potentially valuable resource," the prince told a London conference organised by the Institution of Water and Environmental Management (Iwem).

"One highly respected institute has estimated that the water

industry may be incinerating more than 40 per cent of its sludge by 1998," he said. "I do understand that this may seem to be the neatest, tidiest, most convenient solution, but I do question whether it is the best solution."

The prince said the method seemed to violate the most profound ecological principle of all, which was to minimise the use of resources and energy wastage at every stage of economic process. It would require tact and co-operation to persuade farmers, local authorities and others to take sewage sludge, but the cause was not helped by the industry opting to incinerate the sludge, he said.

"Rather than behaving as though it has an acutely embarrassing problem, should the industry not be trying to create an atmosphere of competition for a valuable resource?" he asked.

Provided that sewage sludge could be rendered micro-biologically safe, there was no reason why agriculture, forestry, horticulture and amenity land should not absorb most sludge produced in the United Kingdom by the end of the decade. It would require only a leap of the imagination and a guarantee of safety for an embarrassing glut to be turned into an embarrassment of riches.

The prince said there had been some encouraging examples. Western Water had elected to produce a peat substitute from sludge previously dumped at sea in Scotland. Dumfries and Galloway regional council had found that incineration was not economically viable, and there was a lot of other evidence to suggest that sludge incineration would be at least as expensive as using it beneficially.

Paul Garrett of the Water Services Association said the association would not make an official comment. He said Thames Water claimed it could not use sludge for agricultural purposes or for in-fill because of the physical impossibility of transporting it from the treatment works. Ken Clarke, a member of the Iwem council, said the industry had to consider all options, of which incineration was one.

• The Prince of Wales has snubbed campaigners trying to stop Tesco, which sells his organic bread, from bulldozing 30 acres of parkland at Golden Hill, Bristol, to make way for its latest shopping centre.

Residents asked the prince to join their campaign against the development, but he has said he cannot get involved. He has an exclusive deal with Tesco to stock his organic bread.



Children at Horsforth Woodside school. "You cannot just close a school because it is small," the governors' chairman says

Parent power costs tax payers dear

By DAVID TYTLER
EDUCATION EDITOR

THE 40 children at an infants school in Leeds have parent power to keep open their school which could accommodate 120 pupils. The decision, repeated many times across the country, is, however, bad news for the poll tax payer, according to an audit commission report published today.

Primary schools in England and Wales have 900,000 empty desks costing poll tax payers £140 million a year, Howard Davies, controller of the commission, said. The report came as the Labour party said that an extra £1.4 billion was needed in 1991-2 for school repairs.

Paul Rayner, chairman of the governors at Horsforth Woodside Church of England infants school in Leeds, conceded that there were difficulties for local authorities seeking to rationalise schools but added: "You do not just close a school because it is small. The intrinsic merit of the school must be taken into consideration and the good ones kept open."

An inner city school where numbers have gradually declined, Horsforth Woodside was due to close in July but a campaign led by parents and staff persuaded the education department to keep it open. Horsforth Woodside was able to back its campaign with a good report from Her Majesty's

*Ulverston
Cumbria
LA12 7ET
12th Nov 1990*

*Dear Mr Major,
please please will you
close us down nicely we
have no money to pay
Some indoor toilets? they
are disgusting smelly and
dirty, and you can catch
germs and be ill. they
are dangerous. and they
are some wobbly bricks
and a hole in the wall.*

Pupil's plea to the prime minister: Louise Ramsden's letter

school inspectors, but Mr Rayner said the clinching argument was the support of the parents. "There are drawbacks with a small school," Mr Rayner said. "But there are advantages too. It helps give personal attention to the children which means there are no discipline problems."

The audit commission praised moves by Leeds city council to deal with its 22,500 spare places. Reorganisation plans were launched in 1988 and, after

Jack Straw, Labour's front bench education spokesman, said last night: "The government's record on crumbling schools is simply appalling; the backlog of repairs is now estimated in current prices at £4 billion." Labour, he said, would cancel the city technology college programme and use the money saved on repairs and maintenance.

The education department said, however, that the figure for the backlog of repairs was nearer £2 billion. "Not all school premises are in a poor condition." It said £60 million was being spent in 1991-2.

To emphasise the poor state of school buildings, Mr Straw produced a letter written to John Major when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer, by Louise Ramsden, aged six, from Ulverston Church of England infants school in Cumbria. She wrote:

"Dear Mr Major,
Please please please will you give us some money for some indoor toilets? they are disgusting smelly and dirty, and you can catch germs and be ill. they are dangerous, and there are wobbly bricks and a hole in the wall..."

Whether Louise would sacrifice her school of 100 pupils to achieve better facilities elsewhere is not known.

Rationalising Primary School Provision (Stationery Office, £5)

Attempt to block plans to build on heath

The High Court yesterday reserved judgment on an attempt by environmentalists to block plans to build 150-200 houses on 17 acres of Canford Heath, Dorset, which is a haven for some of Britain's most endangered species.

Mr Justice Schiemann hopes to decide next week whether to grant the British Herpetological Society and the World Wide Fund for Nature a judicial review of a decision by Poole borough council to allow building on the heath, most of which is a site of special scientific interest.

Sent for trial

Magistrates yesterday sent Michael Shorey, aged 34, of Upper Holloway, north London, for trial at the Central Criminal Court. He is charged with killing a former girl friend and his flame.

Care total drops

Fewer Scottish children are going into council care, in spite of rising reports of child abuse and broken homes. Last year, the number in care fell by 250 to 12,037, which is 5,000 fewer than in 1981, Scottish Office figures show.

Train kills ponies

Five ponies grazing on a railway line in Wirral, Merseyside, were killed when a train ploughed into them yesterday. British Transport Police are investigating.

Police raids

Nine men were arrested in dawn raids yesterday by police investigating a riot between rival football gangs. The arrests followed a seven-month enquiry into violence after a second division play-off match between Swindon and Sunderland at Wembley.

Road undermined

Subsidence of old salt mines, the last of which was abandoned nearly 60 years ago, led to the indefinite closure of almost 1½ miles of the B58 outside Carrickfergus, Co Antrim, yesterday.

Four men bailed

Detectives investigating the affairs of West Wiltshire district council released four men without charge on police bail yesterday. They are to reappear at Chippenham police station on April 11.

Cement job losses

A total of 200 staff at the Castle Cement works, Padiestow, Cwyd, are to be made redundant, it was announced yesterday.

Dog left in hot car

Lisa Metcalfe and Hazel Sidney, from Cramlington, Northumberland, who left a puppy in a car in temperatures of 114F while they went to the Wimbledon tennis championships, were each fined £100 and ordered to pay £100 RSPCA costs yesterday.

By 1975 our achievements were applauded worldwide
Canada and the USA protected homebuyers with programmes
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Move by Gorbachev designed to counter flagging KGB morale

From MARY DEIEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE chilling warnings given by Vladimir Kryuchkov, the head of the KGB, have angered Soviet radicals but left many ordinary Russians cold. They regarded Mr Kryuchkov's statement that he could count on all of them equally or absolutely in a crisis. Each agency has its own armed troops, which have different functions and different traditions.

The interior ministry troops are thought to number up to 400,000, including the feared anti-riot squads, the Omon. They were made directly responsible to the president, and so separated from the army and the KGB commands, by special decree in 1989.

While the Omon have the reputation for professional ruthlessness, the ordinary interior troops are often conscripts. The use of the interior troops, in preference to the regular army or KGB, in civil disorders has made service in the interior troops highly unpopular.

This branch may be one of the least reliable forces at Mr Gorbachev's disposal. The law on states of emergency stipulates, however, that enforcing an emergency is the task of the interior troops.

Interior troops are unlikely to be deployed, however, without back-up from the regular army. Morale in the KGB has shown signs of resiliency.

All three claimed to have been authorised to speak by the president and none implied any threat to the present Soviet leadership.

Their appearances are said to have been requested by President Gorbachev after he told parliament that if deputies wanted a tougher approach, it was theirs for the asking. If President Gorbachev seems assured of

the almost unquestioning support of the army high command, the leadership of the interior ministry, and the KGB, however, this does not necessarily mean that he could count on all of them equally or absolutely in a crisis. Each agency has its own armed troops, which have different functions and different traditions.

The president has no guarantee that even the regular army could enforce Soviet rule in the outlying republics.

The KGB troops, who constitute the elite of an elite, are the ones he must increasingly rely on. KGB troops guard Soviet leaders and control especially sensitive military installations, including all nuclear facilities.

The KGB also has branches in the army and the interior ministry, where they are believed to exert tight control.

Recently, however, even the KGB has shown signs of resiliency.

But there is no evidence of divisions in the KGB that would greatly weaken its effectiveness. The best way of raising KGB morale is probably to widen its remit and give it a freer hand. If Mr Kryuchkov's statement is an indication, that is exactly what President Gorbachev has done.



Making an exit: John Gotti, accused of offences under a gang-busting statute, leaving the FBI's Manhattan offices after his dramatic arrest in Little Italy

Movie moguls upstaged by FBI club raid

From CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

FRANCIS Ford Coppola might be forgiven a little envy. While his long-awaited *Godfather - Part III* is reported to be languishing in the cutting room only two weeks before its release, the real-life FBI and the Mafia have staged him with a drama worthy of the Corleones.

"Feds Bust Gotti in Little Italy", the *New York Post* blared yesterday after the media were invited to witness the arrest of John Gotti, alias the Dapper Don, the "reputed" head of the Gambino crime family, along with three lieutenants, including Salvatore "The Bull" Gravano, his alleged *consigliere*. For the FBI it was a moment to be savoured after all the frustration. Mr Gotti, who is said by the government to run America's biggest mafia clan, has won acquittal and media celebrity in four trials since 1985.

"We've got him nailed this time," said one jubilant officer.

It was 7pm and cold on Tuesday night at the Eganite Social Club, Mr Gotti's alleged place of business on Mulberry Street, the location of all those gangster movies. The self-styled "plumber executive", sleek in hand-tailored overcoat and yellow silk scarf, was driven up to the club in his silver limousine. "Alpha team, moving in," cracked the FBI agents' radios.

The centrepiece in the case is a charge that he engineered the murder of Big Paul Castellano, his alleged predecessor as "boss" of the Gambinos, who was gunned down outside Sparks' Steak House in Manhattan five years ago. New information has also provided evidence to charge Mr Gotti with murdering Dee Bee Di Bernardo, a family *cappo* whose body was never found, police said.

To date, the NHBC warranty scheme has rescued over 50,000 families, including 13,000 left stranded by bank-upt builders.

The road to a united states of Europe

WHEN nations draw up constitutions, they do so with a solemn and almost theatrical sense of occasion. The American founding fathers were full of high principles and high sentiment, even when the constitutional conference in Philadelphia bogged down in wrangling. Similarly in Sicily in 1955, the foreign ministers of the original Six had a conscious eye on posterity when they drew up the Treaty of Rome in Messina.

Tomorrow, Europe's leaders will begin an equally momentous task: developing the political and economic shape of Europe. The two inter-governmental conferences, opening within hours of each other, will draw together all the visions of the federalists, the objections of the doubters, the proposals and the mechanisms for creating the most far-reaching

changes in West European political life since the end of the second world war.

From the two constitutional conferences may emerge, in less than a year, a Europe more deeply integrated, more irrevocably committed to a single federal structure than ever. Robert Schuman, Paul-Henri Spaak and the other founding fathers foresaw 35 years ago.

The conferences will deal with three separate but related issues: developing a common foreign and security policy, extending the commission's fields of activity and streamlining the EC's decision-making procedures.

All have become more urgent this year in the light of the turbulent events in Eastern Europe, the prospect of enlargement of the community, the rapid

advance to economic and monetary union and a rising disquiet in national parliaments and governments that vital decisions are being taken on the EC's future behind voters' backs.

The conferences arose from a call in April by Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, and President Mitterrand of France, for a rapid new push towards EC political integration to respond to world events. Their call, fleshed out in a formal proposal last week, prompted the convocation of a

separate meeting to run parallel with the one revising the Treaty of Rome to enact economic and monetary union. Since then, experts from each member state have been defining the issues they want to discuss. The Italian presidency has summarised these in a paper that will form the basis for the conference agenda — though other issues may be added once the talks get going.

Most countries, apart from Britain, now see a need to extend or redefine the jurisdiction of the

community. They want drugs, immigration and the control of frontiers, currently covered by informal co-operation among the Twelve, brought into the ambit of a new treaty. They want the commission to have new powers over social affairs, the environment, education, research and technology, tax, health, culture, tourism, energy, telecommunications and transport networks.

They also think that more decisions should be taken by qualified majority vote. But all are worried about empire-building by Brussels and say the principle of subsidiarity — leaving to member states issues best covered at national level — should be written into the treaty.

All countries, including Britain, want some extra powers for the European parliament: the right to nominate the president of the commission, confirm new commissioners, control the EC budget, audit accounts and take abuses to the European Court.

Few want any right for parliament to initiate legislation. There is also a split between the French, who want only cosmetic change, and the Germans, who want real new powers for Strasbourg, partly in order to create a credible body to oversee the functioning of a politically independent European central bank.

Leading article, page 15

Major facing test of pace and footwork

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

TACTICS for John Major's first European summit as prime minister will be finally decided at this morning's cabinet meeting before he flies to Rome tonight. Essentially ministers must decide on the pace of European integration, Britain's chances of slowing it down, and what the risks are in the development of a two-tier Europe with Britain in the second division.

For Mr Major the pressures are intense. He needs to prove himself in the international arena as he has already done on the domestic scene and must convince the summit that Britain without Margaret Thatcher is a willing European partner without encouraging the belief that London can now be pushed around.

In the wake of Mrs Thatcher's departure, Britain's European partners, seeing the swift action on such domestic issues as the poll tax, will be looking for signs of an easing in British attitudes on European policy. Mr Major has to find a way of satisfying them that he meant what he said during the leadership election about getting on to the European pitch and joining a "constructive dialogue" on the way forward.

He must ensure that he is not outflanked as Labour moves towards supporting economic union, but at the same time he knows that the band of Eurosceptics in his party, virtually all of them among the 185 MPs who voted for his leadership, will be combing through the small print of any communiqué agreed in Rome for signs that he has weakened in his promise to have nothing to do with an imposed single European currency.

The prime minister has no taste for an independent central bank, or even for an independent Bank of England, so there is little he can give the expectant Europeans in

BRITAIN

policy terms; it will all have to be in the style and tone.

Europeans in the Conservative party would like to see Mr Major signal a new era by signing up to the principle of full economic and monetary union, with an independent central bank and a single European currency while reserving for national parliaments the right to determine the timing of participation by each state. They believe that, in response, Britain's 11 community partners might make concessions on Mr Major's plan for the hard ecu to be a voluntary transitional stage.

Mr Major has claimed more allies on that plan than we have seen committed in public. But any European cavalry on this issue has remained out of sight. In Rome, Britain will have to demonstrate that there are European governments who see the hard ecu plan as something more than a cosmetic compromise to keep the Tory party together.

What Mr Major and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, are determined to do is to resist any attempt by the Italian presidency to set timetables for the deliberations of the two inter-governmental conferences on political and economic union.

The British have been insisting that this weekend's summit will be concentrating on political union (on which it will be easier to drag out the discussions) rather than on monetary union. But that could prove to be wishful thinking.

Another objective in Rome will be the building of a relationship with Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor. The chemistry was never there with Mrs Thatcher, but Mr Major knows he must establish a dialogue with one of the chief architects of the new Europe?

A GUIDE TO WHERE THEY STAND

	A Federal Europe	Stronger European Parliament	More majority voting	More EC members	Extending EC jurisdiction	Common defence policy*	Common foreign policy	One currency
BRITAIN	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	MAYBE	NO
BELGIUM	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
DENMARK	MAYBE	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES
FRANCE	YES	MAYBE	YES	MAYBE	YES	YES	YES	YES
GERMANY	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES
GREECE	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	MAYBE
IRELAND	MAYBE	NO	YES	YES	MAYBE	NO	YES	YES
ITALY	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
LUXEMBOURG	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
NETHERLANDS	YES	YES	YES	MAYBE	MAYBE	NO	YES	YES
PORTUGAL	MAYBE	YES	YES	MAYBE	YES	MAYBE	YES	YES
SPAIN	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

*Including right to make laws Including merger of EC and Western European Union

Speaking up for one family

By PHILIP HOWARD

EUROPEAN unification is not a grey-suits' club or a federal take-over but a family reunion. We are all brothers and sisters under the skin and across artificial frontiers. Our collective name registers this.

Europa was a girl from Tyre (in what is today Lebanon) who was kidnapped by a bull while playing on the beach. He swam to Crete with her and metamorphosed into Zeus, the rampant king of the Greek gods. Their progeny was the Minotaur, and Europa's name became ours.

If you want the truth behind the myth, it says that European civilisation came originally from the cradle of man in what Europeans call the Near East. It was transmuted by Greek genius and spread around the world by Roman competence. All Europeans are the children of our Graeco-Roman culture. Christianity followed a similar path into the wide world.

European languages proclaim our common ancestry. About three-quarters of English words come from our grandmother Jonnes, Latin and Greek, either

directly or by way of another European language.

Some words common to all European tongues come from the original lost Indo-European language, "mother," "name" and many of our words for numbers among them. Others came into English from Latin even before our Anglo-Saxon forefathers invaded our offshore island. You can recognise these because they retain the contemporary Latin pronunciation of "v" as "w": wine from *vinum*, wall from *wallum*.

Latin words that came later, through Norman French, preserve odd spellings behind our pronunciation: debt from *debitum*, kipper from *cyprius*. Very early the English decided to call a male duck a drake from the Greek and Latin *draco*, a dragon. Fifteen centuries later our sister linguists, the Spanish, revised the jujubes by calling Sir Francis Drake *El Drako*. Romance ("from the Roman") languages have an even higher proportion of ancestral Graeco-Roman words than English.

European literature is a lake in which Homer, Virgil, Dante

Shakespeare, Cervantes, Racine and Goethe swim. Once you have dived into it everything will lead you to everything else. We inherit tragedi and comedy and the name and the notion of the theatre from the Greeks.

Family portraits were invented by the Romans. European philosophy has been a footnote to Plato since his time. Doctors still take the Hippocratic oath. Much of Europe uses Roman law. When does opera comes from either than an attempt by Jacopo Peri to revive classical tragedy? Our quantum and relativistic revolutions came from asking the original Greek question: why? And computer technology is a descendant of the passion of our Roman ancestors for the sister question: how?

It has taken our squabbling, bickering European family three millenniums of wars, migrations, crusades, plague, pillage, partitions, incursions, invasions, intrusions, recidives, switching sides, and genocide to recognise the obvious fact that we are kin.

Currency melting pot

From MICHAEL BINYON
IN BRUSSELS

ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION IS THE MOST FAR-REACHING CHANGE PROPOSED FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1957.

IT WOULD LEAD TO THE UNITED STATES OF EUROPE.

THE REPORT BY JACQUES DELORS,

THE COMMISSION PRESIDENT,

PROPOSES A NEW CURRENCY,

THE ECU, WHICH WILL BE THE

COMMON CURRENCY OF THE

12 MEMBER STATES.

IT IS A MAJOR STEP FORWARD

TOWARDS A UNITED STATES OF

EUROPE.

ING THE USE OF COMPETING CURRENCIES IN EACH COUNTRY SO THAT THE STRONGEST DROVE OUT THE WEAKEST. NO ONE TOOK THE IDEA SERIOUSLY.

JOHN MAJOR, THE NEW CHANCELLOR, THEN PRODUCED A MORE SOPHISTICATED "HARD ECU" PLAN. THIS ACCEPTED MOST OF THE DELORS REPORT'S aims, but insisted the ecu should become a common, not a single currency. EMU should come by evolution, not decree.

THOUGH THE SUBSEQUENT POLITICAL CONVULSIONS IN BRITAIN HAVE CHANGED THE TONE OF THE ARGUMENT, IN Substance Britain IS STILL ISOLATED IN OPPOSITION TO A SINGLE CURRENCY.

EMU COULD BRING ENORMOUS FINANCIAL BENEFITS. A RECENT ASSESSMENT BY THE COMMISSION SAID OUTPUT WOULD RISE BY 5 PER CENT, THE EC WOULD SAVE UP TO £13 BILLION A YEAR IN TRANSACTION COSTS, THE RATE AND VARIABILITY OF INFLATION

WOULD FALL, GOVERNMENTS WOULD HAVE LESS COSTLY PUBLIC DEBT SERVICE AND THE COMMUNITY COULD BETTER WEATHER OUTSIDE SHOCKS SUCH AS A NEW OIL CRISIS.

DESPITE BRITISH OBJECTIONS, THE MOMENTUM NOW LOOKS UNSTOPPABLE. TWO WEEKS AGO, EC FINANCE MINISTERS DREW UP THE POSSIBLE STANDES FOR EUROPE, CONFIRMING THAT THE BANK WILL BE RUN MUCH ON THE LINES OF THE BUNDES BANK, COMMITTED TO PRICE STABILITY AND POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT. BRITAIN REGISTERED AN OVERALL RESERVE. BUT THE SHAPE OF THE ORGANISATION THAT WILL RIVAL THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL RESERVE BANK IN POWER AND ECONOMIC CLOUD IS ALREADY CLEAR.

THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE IS MORE ABOUT TIDYING UP DETAILS THAN DECIDING QUESTIONS OF PRINCIPLE. ALL BRITAIN'S PARTNERS NEED DO IS CONVINCE JOHN MAJOR.

Learning the rules of EC word game

From MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

THE FOLLOWING IS A BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE TERMS USED IN THE DEBATE ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY:

■ *Acquis communautaire*: entire corpus of EC law as adopted by states throughout the community's existence.

■ *Comitology*: choosing the appropriate management committee for EC legislation. The mix and balance of power between the commission and member states.

■ *Common position*: the first stage of council adoption of single-market legislation, preceding parliament's second reading of a directive.

■ *Co-operation procedure*: the procedure enacted under the Single European Act which gives the European parliament the right to a second reading of single-market legislation. It introduces strict timetables for parliamentary opinions and council decisions, and the procedure restricting the council's authority to ignore amendments.

■ *Council*: the most confusing word of all. A European council means a summit, held every six months. A council meeting means one of the regular meetings of ministers from all 12 states. The Council of Europe is the Strasbourg body set up in 1948 that has nothing to do with the EC.

■ *Qualified majority*: the minimum number of weighted votes needed for council adoption of single-market legislation. Big countries have ten votes each, smaller members have between two and eight. A qualified majority is a minimum of 54 votes from a total of 76, cast by no fewer than eight member states; a blocking minority is 23 votes.

■ *Subsidiarity*: the principle that decisions should be taken at the lowest level possible, leaving to Brussels only those which need to be taken at EC-wide level. This principle would enshrine the right of member governments to continue making the bulk of decisions and may be written into any new treaty.

IN MANY AREAS OF DECISION-MAKING IN THE EC, ESPECIALLY WITHIN THE COMMISSION AND BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, WHO ARE NOT COLLECTIVELY RESPONSIBLE TO NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS.

■ *Derogation*: a temporary exception to EC law, allowed to member states unable to comply with new directives within the usual two-year transition period.

■ *Legal base*: the choice of the article in the Treaty of Rome on which a proposed directive by the commission is based. All articles dealing with the single market allow for voting by qualified majority (qv), while others must be taken unanimously.

■ *Qualified majority*: the minimum number of weighted votes needed for council adoption of single-market legislation. Big countries have ten votes each, smaller members have between two and eight. A qualified majority is a minimum of 54 votes from a total of 76, cast by no fewer than eight member states; a blocking minority is 23 votes.

■ *Democratic deficit*: the lack of proper democratic accountability

in many areas of decision-making in the EC, especially within the commission and by the Council of Ministers, who are not collectively responsible to national parliaments.

■ *Helmut Kohl*, the German chancellor, will be going to the conference tables in Rome seeing himself in the role of Community godfather, providing most of the money and ideas to lead into a stronger federal Europe.

HE WILL BE ARMED WITH A THREAT AND A PROMISE. THE THREAT IS THAT UNLESS THE COMMUNITY DOES MORE TO HELP PRESIDENT GORBACHEV AS HE STRUGGLES TO INTRODUCE ECONOMIC REFORMS IN THE SOVIET UNION, THERE IS A REAL DANGER THERE OF ANARCHY OR A RETURN TO A TOTALITARIAN STATE.

THE EC DECISION TO PROVIDE £2.2 BILLION AID TO THE SOVIET UNION IS SEEN HERE AS A GOOD FIRST STEP. HERR KOHL, WORRIED AT THE PROSPECT OF A COUNTRY HAVING TO ABSORB A FLOOD OF REFUGEES FROM THE EAST IF THINGS GO WRONG THERE, WILL BE WANTING A MORE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND PACKAGE.

THE PROMISE IS THAT IF THE EC

FOLLOWS THE GERMAN MODEL, AN ERA

OF PROSPERITY AND WORLD INFLUENCE

WILL OPEN UP BEFORE MEMBERS.

THIS VISION WILL BE UNVEILED AT THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCES, WHERE

GERMANY WILL TRY TO INSIST ON

MEMBERS ACCEPTING ITS IDEAS ON

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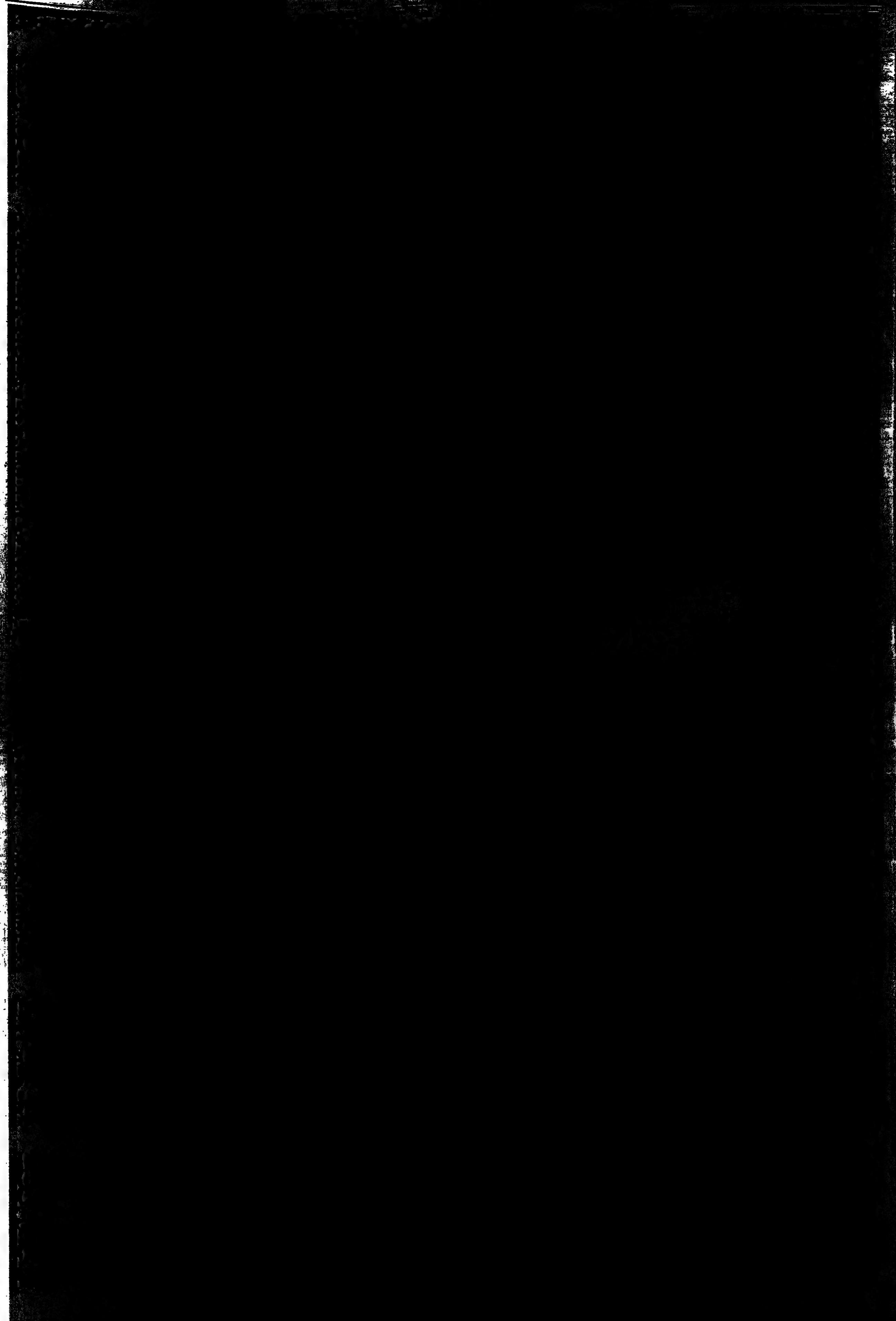
Strained axis, page 10

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GERMANY

THE DEATH OF IAN MURRAY
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waited until
about 1 PM.
Then we took
the train to
Montevideo.



Saddam promotes hardliner to the defence ministry

By MICHAEL EVANS AND HAZHIE TEIMOURIAN

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein has sacked his defence minister and replaced him with a younger man who commanded the Iraqi 3rd Corps in the war with Iran. The sudden change, the second in the Iraqi high command in four weeks, reveals that senior military figures in Baghdad may increasingly be opposed to the president's policy on Kuwait.

The removal of General Abdel-Jaber Khalil Shanshal, aged 70, and the promotion of Major-General Saadi Tuma Abbas to the job of defence minister was announced by Baghdad Radio yesterday.

The timing of General Shanshal's dismissal, supposedly because of his age, less than five weeks before the United Nations Security Council's January 15 deadline for Iraq to quit Kuwait or face a military assault, was interpreted as a sign that President Saddam may not, after all, be ready to compromise.

The unexpected sacking of General Shanshal, who had been defence minister for 18 months, came after the removal last month of Lieutenant-General Nazir al-Khazraji, the Iraqi chief of staff. American officials said General Khazraji was apparently sacked for opposing the Kuwait strategy. He was reported to have been executed with seven other senior officers.

It emerged yesterday that an unnamed senior Iraqi air force commander has also been executed. He was arrested on Monday and shot by firing

squad on Tuesday, intelligence sources said. Although there has been no official confirmation, it is understood that the execution was ordered after a report appeared in Italian and Soviet papers that President Saddam keeps two fully fuelled aircraft at Baghdad airport to fly him and his family out of the city in the event of an allied attack.

The appointment of a new defence minister appeared to underline President Saddam's determination to have loyal and hardline officers around him in the final weeks before the UN deadline.

The state-run radio, quoting a presidential decree, said General Abbas was formerly the inspector-general of the armed forces and previously a deputy chief of staff. He is considered to be a supporter of President Saddam's hardline stance on Kuwait.

He devised the formidable defensive lines built to protect Basra from Iranian "human wave" assaults during the Gulf war. The Iraqis, who have an estimated 500,000 troops in Kuwait and southern Iraq, have built similar fortifications along the southern and coastal areas of Kuwait.

General Abbas is reported to have been supervising their construction.

General Shanshal, who was told of his dismissal in a letter from President Saddam, had been appointed after the death in a mysterious helicopter crash of the previous defence minister, General Adnan Khurshid, who had reportedly

Lettters, page 15

earned President Saddam's displeasure in a family feud. General Khairullah was President Saddam's brother-in-law. • King warning: The allied forces in Saudi Arabia would launch "the most appalling attack" on the Iraqis if they did not leave Kuwait by January 15, Tom King, the defence secretary, said yesterday. A partial withdrawal would not do, he said.

Mr King said that President Saddam had to be told the straight truth when he met James Baker, the US Secretary of State, in Baghdad. If he still paid no attention to world opinion, his forces would face "extreme suffering".

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's Today programme, Mr King said: "Unless Saddam Hussein is mad, whatever he may say about not leaving, I think reality will break through. There are massive forces now gathering in Saudi Arabia. There will be a lot of suffering. Nobody wants to see that happen... There are no ifs or buts. He has to obey the UN resolution. You cannot defy the world in this way."

The decision to release all the hostages was the first sign that the Iraqi leader might be starting to heed world opinion. Mr King said, adding: "It is the first sign that he is beginning to realise just what the forces are arrayed against him and the magnitude of taking on the totality of world opinion the way he has sought to do."

Lettters, page 15

AS CONTROVERSY grew over new orders issued to Israeli troops for firing at stone throwers, a teenage Arab girl was shot dead near Nablus on the West Bank and Palestinian demonstrators stoned a military convoy taking Moshe Arens, the defence minister, through Jericho after a tour of inspection at the Allenby

bridge, the crossing point between Israel and Jordan.

There were no injuries, and Mr Arens was unscathed. Two stone throwers were arrested.

The new orders on opening fire authorise army commanders to post snipers at trouble spots in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to pinpoint stone throwers and disable

them by shooting them in the legs. Israeli civil rights activists described this as "monstrous" and accused the army of giving in to pressure for harsher measures from Jewish settlers.

General Dan Shomron, the chief of staff, replied that the new orders were within the framework of existing rules

governing the use of weapons, which permit troops to open fire when their lives are threatened.

But the general admitted that the army was "stretching its interpretation of the law to the limit".

Arab stone throwers receive sentences ranging from six months to ten years. But army prosecutors want judges to impose the maximum allowable sentence of 20 years to deter stone throwing as the intifada, the Palestinian uprising, enters its fourth year.

General Shomron told the Knesset: "I hope that we shall succeed in deterring the stone throwers without the soldiers actually pursuing fleeing children and firing live ammunition."

The intifada leadership has threatened to increase the violence by urging Arab activists to use guns against Israelis rather than stones. However, stones remain the main weapon of the uprising.

In the incident near Nablus, a 16-year-old Palestinian girl was shot in the head during a clash with troops who were raiding the village of Bidya. She died on arrival in hospital.

In east Jerusalem, troops used tear gas to break up a march marking the founding of the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, led by George Habash, in 1967.

General Shomron said that, given the polarisation of Israeli opinion between left and right, it was becoming less easy for the army to chart a middle course in dealing with the Arab revolt.

Mr Arens said he believed that the use of guns, as well as stones, by Palestinian nationalists was an act of despair rather than a new phase in the intifada.

Baghdad 'hints at Kuwait pull-out'

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN AMMAN

PRESIDENT Chadli Benjedid of Algeria arrived in Baghdad yesterday amid mixed signals about his chances of paving the way towards an Arab solution in the Gulf.

Asian diplomatic sources said his mediating mission coincided with the first public hint by President Saddam Hussein that he was prepared, under certain restricted circumstances, to contemplate withdrawing from Kuwait.

The sources said that among conditions which the Iraqi leader would insist on would be an endorsement by Washington of the need to hold an urgent international conference on the Palestinian and other Middle East problems, a guarantee of no demand for reparations, a new Kuwaiti government rather than restoration of the al-Sabah family, and negotiations on Iraq's territorial claims.

The sources said that the dramatic switch in the Iraqi leader's approach was first relayed in his talks in Baghdad this week with Romesh Bhandari, a Non-Aligned Movement envoy sent by Rajiv Gandhi, the former Indian prime minister.

It contrasted strongly with repeated bellicose demands by Latif Nassif al-Jassem, the Iraqi information minister, that Baghdad was willing to contemplate a withdrawal.

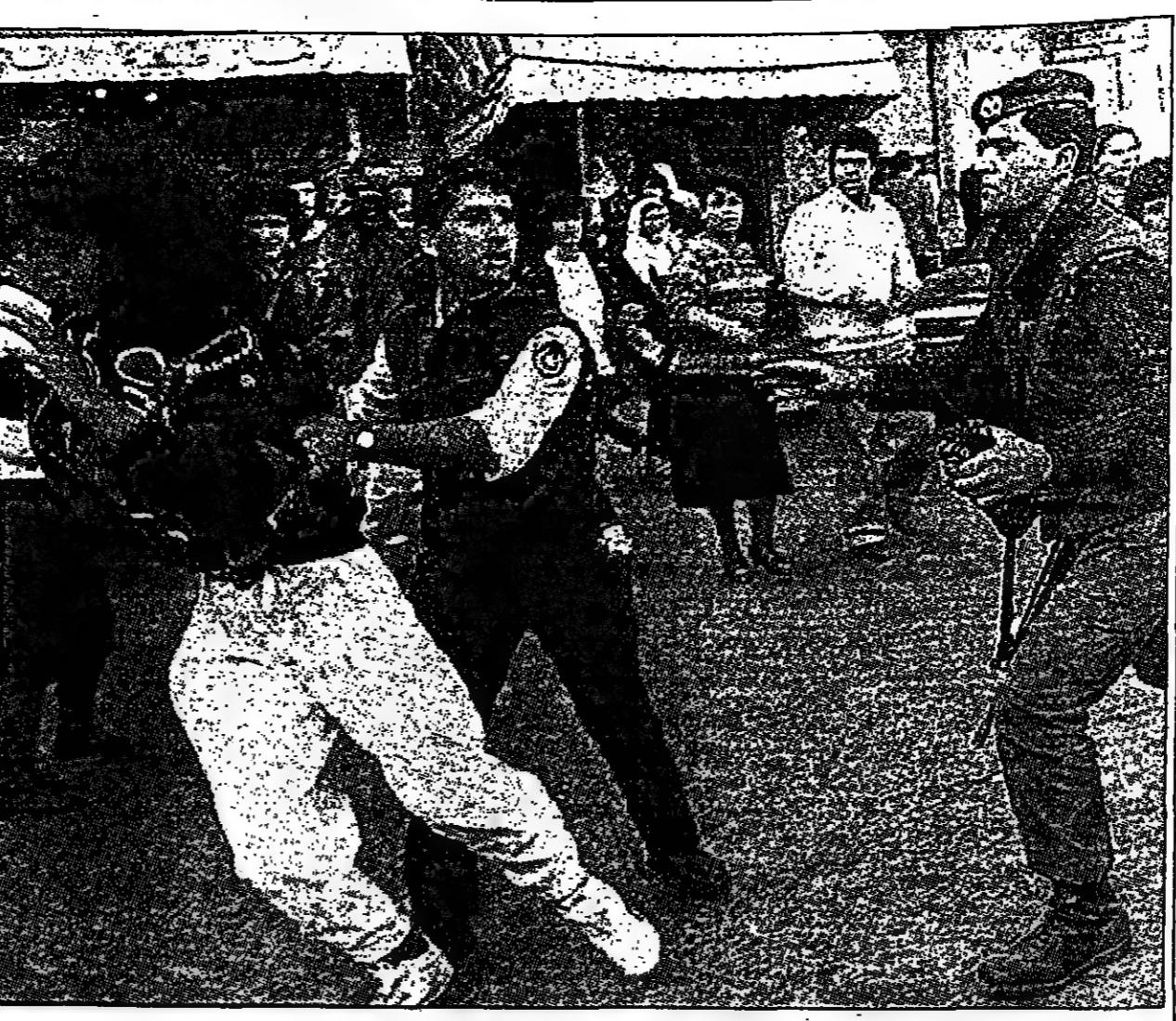
The point to understand in Arab disputes like this is that there are two sides to any negotiation: What is said to the outside world and what is relayed in private," a Western official said.

Many Arab officials believe that restoration of the oil-rich and to date notably undemocratic al-Sabahs, is the weakest element in United States demands. This week a leading Iranian paper, *Kavhan International*, also insisted that "under no circumstances" should they be permitted to return to power. Iran is a possible stop-off point on President Chadli's mediating mission. In private, American officials have complained at the lack of effort by some members of the ruling family to try to recover their country.

However, President Chadli's initiative received a cool response, at least in public, from Saudi Arabia, supposedly his main stopping-off point after Iraq.

The Saudi Press Agency quoted an official as saying that no date had been fixed for the Algerian leader's visit, although he was twice visited in Algiers last week by Sheikh Ali bin Muslim, a senior envoy of King Fahd.

Diplomats in Riyadh said it was unlikely that the Saudis would refuse to see President Chadli. The coolness of their message was seen as pique that Algerian sources had leaked in advance an assurance that King Fahd had agreed to meet President Saddam after Iraq began withdrawing its forces from Kuwait.



Close arrest: Israeli police detaining a Palestinian woman during a demonstration in Jerusalem yesterday

Girl shot dead in West Bank clash

From RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

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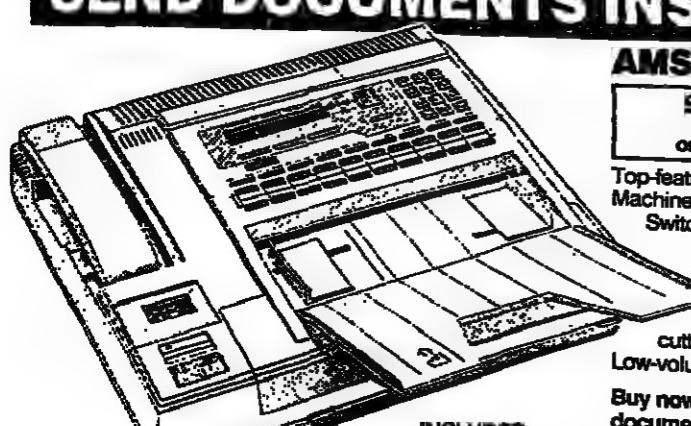


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Rancher admits Mendes killing

From REUTER IN XAPURI, BRAZIL

THE Brazilian rancher Darci Alves da Silva, in an unexpected about-face, confessed in court yesterday to killing Chico Mendes, the rainforest activist, two years ago.

Senhor Alves da Silva, accused by his father Darci of the murder which drew worldwide attention to the destruction of the Amazon rainforest, had said they were innocent. But on taking the witness stand, Senhor Alves da Silva, changed his plea. "I killed Chico Mendes," he said, "but I acted alone. I fired one shot."

His voice betrayed no hint of emotion as he told the cramped courtroom in Xapuri of the night of December 22, 1988, when he crouched in Mendes's back yard, ambushing him as he emerged from his simple house and firing one bullet into his chest.

The Xapuri federal police chief, Romeo Tuma, told reporters Senhor Alves da Silva's confession could be a tactic to try to get his father, accused of ordering the murder, acquitted and he might also be trying to convince the court that no one else was involved in the crime.

Senhor Darci Alves da Silva turned himself over to police within days of the killing of Mendes and confessed to the murder. He later retracted his confession.

Foreign reporters and environmentalists packed

into the 80-seat courtroom while townspersons stood outside in driving rain. White banners in the main square proclaimed "Justice to save Amazon".

Mendes was a local trade unionist, who led rubber tappers in their struggle against the encroachment of cattlemen into the great rainforest.

His campaign made him enemies among the ranchers, and he predicted his death.

Security in Xapuri, in the western state of Acre, close to Bolivia, is intense. The tightest security has surrounded the main prosecution witness, Genesio da Silva, aged 15, who has lived in hiding since 1989. He used to live on Senhor Darci Alves da Silva's farm and is due to testify that he heard him plotting the murder.

Human rights activists said the trial of Senhor Alves da Silva on charges of ordering the murder was virtually unprecedented in Brazil. Moacyr Grechi, the Roman Catholic bishop in Rio Branco, the state capital, said that out of 1,200 rural murders in Brazil between 1964 and 1986, no one was tried for ordering a killing.

But those close to Mendes question whether the right man is in the dock. They say that Senhor Alves da Silva is a small fish in a large conspiracy that involved far more powerful people.

Ershad taken from official residence to house arrest

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DHAKA

HUSSAIN Ershad, ousted as president of Bangladesh last week, was ordered out of his official residence inside a military garrison yesterday and placed under house arrest in a Dhaka mansion with his wife and five-year-old son.

The huge house, directly opposite the British High Commission in the diplomatic enclave of Gulshan, was surrounded by police who set up tents in the garden. The building was once the official residence of the British High Commissioner.

Mr Ershad, aged 60, his wife Raushan, aged 55, and their son Shad were escorted by police out of the garrison and driven in a long convoy of police vehicles to the house. Witnesses said that they looked distressed.

Opposition leaders have been demanding for days that Mr Ershad be ordered out of the official residence. Earlier yesterday, students held demonstrations demanding his

\$1m bounty renewed for Rushdie

Nicosia — An Iranian charity organization repeated its \$1 million (£515,000) offer for the head of Salman Rushdie, the British author, the Islamic Republic News Agency said.

The 15th of Khordad Foundation, which offered the reward soon after the late Ayatollah Khomeini called for Mr Rushdie's head in 1988, said that its bounty was still available. Khomeini is alleged that Mr Rushdie, who went into hiding, had defamed Islam in his novel, *The Satanic Verses*. (AP)

Reporter freed

Medellin — Colombian cocaine barons freed Hera Buss, a German journalist, after he spent more than three months in captivity. (Reuters)

Whales drown

Nyanga Port, Massachusetts — Some 45 stranded pilot whales which beached on a nearby island were either drowning as the tide rose or were being given a lethal injection by would-be rescuers who wanted to end their suffering. (AFP)

Fatal jump

Auckland — Jason John Collett, aged 19, who was in charge of an amusement park bungee jump in New Zealand that caused the death of a man, was sentenced to 200 hours' community service after being convicted of manslaughter. (AP)

Woman governor
Wellington — The former mayor of Auckland, Dame Celia Fizard, aged 59, was sworn in as the first woman governor-general of New Zealand. (Reuters)

Attack on Seoul superpower links

From ASSOCIATED PRESS IN SEOUL

NORTH Korea said yesterday that peace on the bitterly divided Korean peninsula had to be achieved without interference from outsiders, pointing indirectly to South Korea's links with the United States and the Soviet Union.

"We only wonder when this dependence on outside forces and flunkist way of thinking, impairing national dignity and interests, will disappear," said Yon Hyong Muk, the North Korean prime minister. "If we depend upon foreign forces, we cannot but be subjected to their interference, cannot but be worried about their attitude," he declared.

Mr Yon's comments came at the opening of the third round of talks since September between the prime ministers of the two Koreas on easing the political and military tensions which divide them.

The opening-day session lasted about two hours.

President Roh of South Korea flies to Moscow today for a meeting with President Gorbachev. The Soviet Union, a long-time ally of the communist North, established diplomatic relations with Seoul two months ago and Mr Roh's trip has been bitterly criticized by the



Side by side: Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Inkatha leader, addressing a rally in Tokoza yesterday, as Adriaan Vlok, the law and order minister, listens intently

Zulus force Mandela to retreat from township

From GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

NELSON Mandela, yesterday visiting some of the Johannesburg black township areas worst affected by recent factional violence, was confronted by a mob of angry Zulus who swore at him, attacked an African National Congress car and forced his peace mission of political and church leaders to retreat in disarray.

The incident occurred as the delegation, led by the ANC's deputy president, approached a workers' hostel in Tokoza where more than 80 people have been killed this week in clashes between Zulu members of the Inkatha Freedom Party and Xhosa residents who broadly support the ANC. About a hundred Zulu men and women, some brandishing crude weapons and placards chanted "Away, get out Mandela". As armed riot police converged on the scene, a screaming woman struck a car flying an ANC flag with a metal pipe. Mr Mandela, visibly shaken, was hustled away by aides.

Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Inkatha leader, on a separate tour of the township blamed the ANC for the continuing strike. Addressing about 2,000 armed supporters he claimed that the ANC had provoked the violence by waging a campaign against the KwaZulu tribal homeland, of

which he is chief minister.

The nature of the visits highlighted the antagonism between the two leaders and their political maneuvering. Chie Buthelezi, after saying he could not join the church mission because of other commitments, surprised observers by turning up with Adriaan Vlok, the law and order minister.

ANC opposition to direct talks between Mr Mandela and Chief Buthelezi, and the latter's refusal to attend larger peace forums, have compromised their respective calls for an end to the violence. The ANC said yesterday that there were no plans for the two to meet before the new year.

Of more immediate concern to ANC activists is the return from 30 years' exile of Oliver Tambo, their ailing president, who is expected to be given a hero's welcome when he arrives in South Africa today. Mr Tambo, aged 73, who is recovering from a stroke, will address the opening session of a crucial ANC conference near Johannesburg tomorrow, which will debate strategy for forthcoming negotiations with the government on constitutional reforms.

ANC officials had planned to mobilise tens of thousands of supporters at Jan Smuts international airport, but the

government has asked them for security reasons to restrict the welcoming party to 60. Mr Tambo, who has been partially paralysed by his illness, is expected to spend three weeks in South Africa before returning to London for more treatment.

He will be given a standing ovation by more than 1,500 delegates to the consultative conference, the first of its kind in South Africa since the ANC was banned in 1959, but unity on political issues is less likely.

After almost a year of political freedom, the organisation has failed to attract the mass support it expected and is riven by internal divisions on how to respond to the government's reform initiatives.

While Mr Mandela's continued leadership is assured, there is growing dissatisfaction among exiles and militant young people demanding mass protest action to galvanise support and hasten the transfer of power to the black majority.

The ANC had originally intended to hold a national conference which would have reshuffled the leadership, but this has been postponed until next June on the ground that many members are still in prison or in exile.

Leading article, page 15

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Strains in the Euro axis

Douglas Johnson

Once again France and Germany seem to have set the pace for Europe. Before any important European summit, President Mitterrand and Chancellor Kohl issued a premonitory statement by which they expect to dominate the conference. True to form, the two leaders have already produced a joint letter to preface the intergovernmental conference in Rome this week.

From de Gaulle's first meeting with Adenauer at Colombey-les-deux-Eglises in September 1958 to his last conversation on international affairs, also at Colombey, shortly before his death in November 1970, the Franco-German alliance was the basis of his European policy, and it has continued to be a dominant force in the European Community.

But can this alliance survive German reunification and the progressive disintegration of the Soviet Union? Jean-Pierre Chevénement, the French defence minister, remarked that when the Berlin Wall collapsed, there was only one casualty: the president of the European Commission, Jacques Delors. His vision of the Community as a tightly-knit economic and political unit became impossible once it was clear that within the Community, one state—Germany—would have a wholly disproportionate power. Nor was the German past forgotten.

The first anniversary of the destruction of the Berlin Wall on November 9 this year was celebrated so discreetly in Germany, some French said, because it was also the anniversary of the Kristallnacht anti-Jewish pogrom in 1938. The French Communists described West Germany's take-over of the East as an *Anschluss*, and a French cartoon showed Mr Kohl unable to get out of the lift at a summit conference because he had grown so big.

The Germans had reservations too. Chancellor Kohl, seizing the opportunity, launched into a skillful and independent policy in order to promote unity. He ignored half-hearted French attempts to favour his rivals, the Social Democrats, and his triumph was seen as giving a lesson to the egoism of French policies. Officially, however, the special relationship has continued. On December 6, Kohl and Mitterrand sent their joint letter to the president of the Community, proposing the establishment of common European foreign and defence policies. Such an aim, they believe, should be part of a new treaty. However, much in the letter remains vague.

According to rumour, the two leaders had difficulty in reaching agreement. Germany is anxious to affirm its democratic credibility and to exploit its demographic power. Therefore it wants more accountability and wants the European Parliament to be more powerful. The French prefer to have meetings (assises is the term used) of representatives of both

...and moreover

CLEMENT FREUD

After an investiture, "What did she say?" is the most common question asked of participants. The most common answers tend to be some way from the truth: "She said she wished it could have been a baronety—but the prime minister has abolished them," I told enquirers. Also: "She told me to be sure to let her know if she could be of help finding me another job."

Show us the gong then, they said, and I opened the box and let them inspect the gold and red medallion hooked onto its wide scarlet and yellow ribbon—long enough to put *in situ* over a top hat. Three and a bit years after the event it occurs to me that there was something really useful that Her Majesty might have said.

Last week the Imperial Society of Knights Bachelor held a reception at St James's Palace in the gracious presence of Her Majesty the Queen. "Neck badges will be worn," it said on the invite; it was my first time. I took the thing from its box in my dressing room, slipped it over my head and heard a subdued clink as it made contact with my penultimate waistcoat button.

I have been a member of the society since 1987. Among the flow of letters of congratulation on my honour—which started to arrive before the flow of letters expressing regret at the loss of my parliamentary seat had stopped—was one from its clerk. He welcomed me. He went on to state that knight-hoods are the oldest rank and dignity known to Christian civilisation and he enclosed a banker's order.

"Not much point being a knight if one doesn't join the Imperial Society," I said to the newly ennobled Lady F. She thought perhaps there would be more in it for her than being an MP's wife—for whom the only bounty is a room off the Commons' central lobby where spouses can change from what they wear at home to clothes to be worn in the Palace of Westminster: women would arrive in startling designer gowns and leave the "family room" in dull, dark, dowdy dresses.

We got to the Palace at 6pm

national parliaments and the European Parliament, as Mitterrand proposed in October 1989 and as took place in Rome last month. Such an assembly is purely consultative. With regard to the executive, the French favour the idea of a troika, comprising the past president of the Community, the current president and the next president, heading a secretariat that would have special responsibilities and powers.

The Germans, who have the most powerful currency, wish the mark to be protected against profiteers and want the Community to control national budgets. The French want to preserve greater freedom, so that their government can meet its social obligations—for instance in education—which have increased as the result of recent tensions.

In matters of defence, the Germans retain a certain Atlantic outlook, which the French are reluctant to share. The Germans are natural regionalists. For many Frenchmen regionalism spells the end of the French state—that is to say, the end of France.

But the greatest immediate difficulty is political. In France, divided political parties look helplessly and pessimistically towards an all-powerful president who is in total control of foreign policy. He is often aloof, frequently enigmatic and, some claim, hesitant. He appears as an arbitrator rather than a leader, prudent rather than decisive.

In Germany, a triumphant coalition prepares not only to deal with the problems of the east and the threat of massive immigration (for which it expects the assistance of the Community), but also to seize the opportunities of expansion—sometimes at the expense of its Community partners. The latest example is Volkswagen's merger with Skoda of Czechoslovakia, which is a defeat for Renault of France. Renault was only tardily—and, it is said, inadequately—supported by its government. This episode seems to confirm the frequent criticism that French leaders fail to anticipate events.

In Germany there is a sense of movement and expectation, even though the gloomy forecasts with which the Social Democrats fought the election may turn out to contain some truth. In France there is uncertainty. Last week Jacques Chirac's neo-Carlists declared their opposition to further European integration unless it is approved by referendum and controlled by the Conseil d'Etat. Others, among the socialists and Giscard d'Estaing's centrists, want France to move more wholeheartedly into its friendship with Germany and its European identity. Germany has achieved unity. France is witnessing the end of consensus.

The author is emeritus professor of French history at University College London.

Trust at bay as townsmen close in

Marion Shoard weighs up the choices forced by the vote for a deer-hunting ban

Today the 52 members of the National Trust must take one of the most important decisions in the Trust's 95-year history: what to do about last month's vote by Trust members for a ban on the hunting of deer with hounds on the Trust's land. If the council imposes such a ban, which would cripple the sport in its West Country stronghold, the rural establishment will be outraged. To defy the members' vote could trigger a revolt and mass resignations. Either way, the Trust—Britain's largest landowner after the state and the crown—will be placed in the forefront of the growing struggle for control of our changing countryside.

Such practices have won for the Trust the understanding and support of the rural establishment. But in a less deferential and increasingly democratic Britain, they were bound to be questioned sooner or later. The urban majority to whom the Trust is ultimately responsible strongly disapproves of some country practices. In the past, the Trust's half-appointed, half-elected, council could afford to ignore these views, but recent efforts to strengthen the organisation's finances have brought the council into fierce collision with the people in whose name it has supposedly been acquired on behalf of the nation.

During the 1970s and '80s, the Trust embarked on a hugely successful recruitment drive, which has given it nearly two million paid-up members. Many joined

this approach has undoubtedly benefited established rural interests. Some aristocratic families manage to remain in largely undisturbed occupation of their stately homes only because the Trust foots the repair bills. Trust tenants are not even required to permit public access to much of the magnificent countryside which has supposedly been acquired on behalf of the nation.

Hunting was always the likeliest flashpoint. Recent opinion polls suggest that around 70 per cent of adults think all hunting should be banned. Some members proposed a complete ban on hunting on Trust property in 1988, but on the urgent advice of the council, their resolution was defeated. So (although much more narrowly) was a similar resolution last month. However, the gentle and appealing red deer evokes even more feeling among townspies than the fox, hare or mink. A separate resolution calling for a ban on deer hunting alone was passed by 68,679 votes to 63,985. Although this vote involved only 6.5 per cent of the Trust's members, the council cannot lightly disregard it.

During the 1970s and '80s, the Trust has always played an ambiguous role in our national life. Over the years, those who run it have chosen to throw its weight firmly behind the traditional rural order, arguing that the interests of conservation will best be served by "good neighbourly" relations with other landowners.

simply for the discounts on entry charges to Trust properties that have been turned into tourist attractions (drawing 10 million visitors a year). But all members have the right to vote on Trust policy, and though such votes are not constitutionally binding on the council, in a democratic age they inevitably carry immense weight.

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Few of the present members of the council will want to see the Trust changed in this way, by either route. But what can they do? Their options are limited.

They can refuse to implement a ban and try to justify this course to Trust members. They could easily demonstrate that a ban would alienate landowners. Much of the land on Exmoor which would be affected by a deer-hunting ban was

donated to the Trust in 1944 by Sir Richard Acland. Before he died three weeks ago, he threatened to take legal action to prevent any ban being applied to his former holding. But Trust members incensed by the suffering of the deer are unlikely to be moved by the prospective wrath of the animals' persecutors.

Alternatively, the council can implement the ban and try to persuade landowners to accept it. That, however, will not be easy. Already the joint master of the Quantock Staghounds is threatening to shoot his 70 hounds in front of the press if the ban goes ahead. In such a climate, landowners may well consider the implementation of a ban an unforgivable betrayal.

Some members of the council may try to put off a decision by setting up a working party to find out more facts, even though the facts are all too clear to everyone. The council would perhaps be wiser to grasp the nettle now and impose the ban. But whichever course is chosen, the National Trust is henceforth likely to play a much more assertive role in the life of our countryside.

Ashes to ashes and bodies to body bags: by order

Bernard Levin marvels at the creation of a special force of garbage police in a city where murders steadily soar

If you want a comprehensive definition of the way the world is going, together with accurate readings of its speed, you may find it in New York, from which so many notable innovations have emerged. It comes in two parts, and I must stress that the picture is not complete without both.

There, the number of murders since the beginning of the year has just passed 2,000; the figure constitutes a "first" for the city, and in view of the fact that 1990 has some days to run, it is clear that 1991 will have to look to its laurels if it is to have a chance of breaking the newly-established record. Stand by, as the chimes of the new year prepare to sound, for a cascade of corpses, generously provided by citizens of New York who understandably want their city to hold the proud standard high.

Well done, Big Apple! But I promised you a vivid glimpse of the future, and made clear that the widespread incidence of insomnia in New York, caused by the nightingale rattle of musketry and screams as the neighbours are being shot or stabbed, cannot alone be sure to typify what is coming. Here, then, is Part Two.

The mayor, presumably raising his voice to be heard above the gunfire and bleeding, recently announced that 83 more policemen have been deployed across the city; most of its citizens, it is true, would have thought the number insufficient for their protection by at least a couple of noughts, but no doubt the more sanguine New Yorkers agreed that it was a start.

The next news, though, would have startled even the most laid-back: the additional squad is not to be a back-up for the homicide division, nor even for the burglary-watch. The sole job of its members is to inspect the city's dustbins to see whether the newly-promulgated decrees requiring every citizen to sort his or her rubbish into separate piles, according to its nature, are being observed.

If they are not, a fine of \$30

looks, a sum that will grow steeply for unrepentant scofflaws who thumb (or, I suppose, hold) their noses at the new laws, until the office whose duty it is to demand and enforce the fine announces that it has reached \$20,000—long before which point, I imagine, it must be cheaper and easier to murder the policeman.

Some of the garbage police (officially the Sanitation Department's Enforcement Task Force) have been talking to *The Sunday Times*, and mucky talk it must have been.

...the foul stench of stale spaghetti sauce, rotten eggs and other odious form of waste can be overpowering... as they trawl through bags of foul-smelling, rotten food and disposable nappies, the officers hope to find an envelope addressed to the offending citizens so that they can charge them... "Sometimes it can be difficult to pinpoint exactly whose garbage is whose... But we try to be as fair as we can, especially if it seems to be a genuine mistake that people have thrown out newspapers or something with their regular trash"... Money for the... programme has run out... As a result, the newspaper and tins that have been collected now languish in warehouses all over the city..."

In New York City, in every span of 48 hours, 11 people are murdered. And all day and much of the night, while the death-count mounts, 83 trained policemen, all armed and fully expert in the pursuit of criminals, are spending their entire time on the beat, by order of the city, searching through the city's dustbins not for spent bullets, bloodstained knives and half-empty vials of poison, but to bring to book those careless citizens who do not with sufficient diligence sort out their domestic rubbish into separate containers (kindly supplied by the city), viz., paper, cardboard, tins and bottles, under penalty of law.

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Grant, a former party deputy chairman who was one of the first to spot Major's potential in the mid-1970s, said yesterday: "I told Kenneth Baker we are immensely proud to have the prime minister staying in Cambridgeshire with his wife and children at weekends, but it is unfair that the burden should fall on local people alone."

With poll tax bills in Huntingdon a relatively modest £305, the prospect of an increase because of prime ministerial policing costs can only add further urgency to Michael Heseltine's review of local government funding.

That's no Lady...

Etiquette fanatics are continuing to puzzle over Margaret Thatcher. She has firmly said that she wishes to be called plain Mrs, however inconsistent this may seem with her husband's acceptance of a hereditary barony. But what should *The Times* make of her insistence that her courtesy title should never be used, even in Court circular references?

Her office is adamantly at variance with etiquette. "Sir Denis and Mrs Thatcher" it must be under all circumstances, staff insist. Nobody seems clear whether this is meant to break new ground in titular separation of the sexes, or more characteristically to cock a snook at a corner of the establishment in which case, why the baroncy?

Charles Kidd, editor of *Debrett*, says: "It would be most irregular if she remains plain Mrs in her social life. I would not like to see Court reports in *The Times* or anywhere else referring to Sir Denis and Mrs Thatcher. The wife of the baronet is a Lady, whatever she may say, and I would be dumbfounded if she continues to insist on calling herself Mrs. She will get used to the new title."

Until she does, however, *The Times* will maintain its policy of permitting people to be called by whatever title they choose—within reason. Which covers Mrs Thatcher. Just.

White house blues

Two centuries after the death of Gilbert White, Britain's he so assiduously studied has returned to haunt his memory. His home in Selborne, Hampshire, now a museum, has been ravaged by deathwatch beetle.

More than £80,000 is needed to carry out urgent repairs to The Wakes, the Grade I listed house where White wrote his *Natural History of Selborne*. The stairs and the beams supporting the upstairs parlour where White died are in a dangerous state. Lord Selborne, one of the trustees, says: "Visitors come from all over the world but

by the fanatics in Kensal Green, has been persuaded to promulgate the Rubbish Decree, though anyone of any sense at all, if there is such a figure left in New York, could have told him that the imposed fad was not only useless for its presumed purpose, but would be ignored throughout the city before a month had passed, or even sooner—if only because the fanatics can don new nostrums as fast as a dustbin lid can be raised.

The joy I felt at seeing the Green party get so notable a drubbing in the recent German elections can hardly be expressed in words, and I hope—oh, how fervently I hope—that this wonderful sign of the world coming to its senses is only the harbinger of a tide (can a tide have harbingers?) probably not, but I can't stop for a couple of mixed metaphors) that will sweep the world clear of the whole business; indeed, I now promise that I will publicly eat an entire dolphin without salt, when the last Green is stuffed with broccoli, spinach, lettuce and dandelion-leaves, and boiled in a very large bio-degradable iron cauldron, not that anyone would notice a difference in the nonsense he would be spouting, boiled or raw.

The only success of which the Greens can boast is their ability to set back the important and serious work of ecological conservation, to which their monkeysphere contributes nothing but obstruction, partly because of their fanaticism and partly because the nonsense they talk tars the real thing with their useless brush. And so craven are the New York authorities in the face of the bullying and swaggering of these people that as the city moves towards a murder-rate of six corpses a day, they hire 83 more policemen (whom in any case they cannot pay) to ensure that such few citizens as survive shall not be prosecuted for not distinguishing a bottle from a tin can and a pile of newspapers from a heap of chicken-bones.

Incidentally, into which city-provided receptacle (they can't pay the bill for them, either) do you suppose that a dead body should be put, and are there different bins according to whether the body was murdered, died of old age, or succumbed to a suffocation of green propaganda?

we have never been able to show more than a part of the house. We have opened a fund for the work to be carried out, and so enable visitors to enjoy the upstairs of the garden that White had."

Francesca Greeneak, the *Times*' gardening correspondent and editor of White's journals, wishes the fund success. But she adds: "White used to get up before dawn to observe the cockroaches at the back of the oven in the kitchen. If he were alive today he would not be killing the deathwatch beetle. He would be terribly excited about studying them."

Driving home late on Monday after the Commons debate on random breath-testing, Tory MP Gerald Howarth was stopped in Knightsbridge and subjected to a test which the officiating constables described as "routine" and which proved negative. Howarth told them he had just been debating whether the police should be given extra powers to stop motorists on a random basis. "Don't waste your time," was the reply. "We do it already."



DIARY

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HARES AND TORTOISES

The summit conferences opening in Rome this weekend have been designed by Brussels to impel the European Community at breakneck speed towards something called "political union". The argument is that only by going at a hare's pace will union ever be achieved. Tortoises who worry too much about practicality will condemn the process to stagnation.

The British prime minister, John Major, at his first summit, must shoot this hare dead in its tracks and insist on the primacy of the tortoise. He has given clear signs that he wants to be vigorously involved in European Community decision-making and this is good. But he has two reasons for wariness, indeed outright stubbornness, over political union.

First, the shape of the discussion inverts logic. The form of any greater political union in Europe must emerge from the requirements of member states for such collaboration. This in turn demands an attention to the areas of decision where supranational authority might be more effective than national authority. These areas might include elements of defence, foreign policy, trade negotiations (a sick joke at present), environmental control and population movement. Each requires different forms of supranational regulation and accountability, and different levels of national subsidiarity.

Simply to posit more grand pan-European institutions as well as fixed dates for their establishment is to risk running before European union can even crawl. Clear understandings, backed by a revised Treaty of Rome, are now needed before any decision can be made on what policy areas are appropriate for supranational authority. The danger now is that the EC will race ahead and fall flat on its face. Mr Major may use a sweeter tone of voice than his predecessor, but he must put up with no nonsense.

The second and even better reason for not wasting time in Rome on political union is that there is a far more urgent item on the agenda. Nothing — not aid to the Soviet Union, nor even the Gulf confrontation — should distract the heads of government from the desperate need to rescue the Uruguay round of trade talks (Gatt) from final collapse.

The neglect of Europe's economic interest, and that of the rest of the world, shown by the EC's farm ministers when they met last Tuesday and by M Delors yesterday, beggars

belief. These men bear direct responsibility for the breakdown last week of the Gatt talks, the most ambitious programme of trade liberalisation undertaken in recent history. Instead of searching for the fastest route out of the hole into which the EC has dug world trade, the ministers spent the meeting pitting each other on the back for "standing firm" in defence of their farm lobbies.

The lesson which the Rome summit should draw is that the Brussels farm commissioners, Ray MacSharry, and the administrators of the monstrously corrupt common agricultural policy, should be excluded from further Gatt talks. Such negotiations should, under Gatt rules, be the sole responsibility of Frans Andriessen, the commissioner for trade and external relations. But even this will make little difference unless the heads of government in Rome agree to a drastically improved offer on world trade in food.

The Gatt disaster has been a perfect demonstration of why political union should only progress at the pace of tortoise. Trade policy is fundamental to joint foreign policy, itself a fundamental aspect of political cooperation. The point of political collectivity is to subsume regional interest to the interests of a wider geographical whole, in the cause of greater wealth and security for all. Trade has been an area where, under treaty, the EC negotiates for the Twelve. It has been a conspicuous failure. The result has been a "community" presenting itself to the world as parochial and protectionist, riddled with the sort of market-rigging associated with Third World economies and the communist trade pact, Comecon. Such a community, to put it mildly, is not in the long-term interest of Europe's populations, nor of the world.

Brussels communiqués down the years have resonated with pious calls for the East European countries to undertake market reforms. Aid from the EC to the East and the Third World is now generally granted only on condition that such reforms are undertaken. Yet the trade opportunities offered to the whole world by a successful Gatt deal are worth many times the value of EC aid. If Europe's existing attempt at political union cannot achieve such a deal, there is no point in progressing further down this route.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

The legal aid system exists to make sure that nobody is denied access to justice through lack of means. The principle is becoming gradually more honoured in the breach, as the legal profession has been saying more and more loudly in recent weeks. Naturally lawyers have a considerable vested interest, as almost all the gross government budget for legal aid, more than £700 million, ends up in their pockets. This is special pleading, but a society cannot claim to conduct itself by the rule of law if the only law available to most of its citizens is ruinously expensive.

Some solicitors have in effect gone on strike, demanding higher legal aid fees. In parts of the country almost all the local law firms are now refusing to handle publicly-aided cases. Like any old trade unionist, they say the work is not paid enough.

They would be assisted by reforms to the system which would cost little, but would make the work more attractive even at present levels of reward. The slow speed at which claims for legal aid are assessed at the outset, and the even slower speed at which claims for fees are sometimes met at the end, are discouraging all but the most conscientious solicitors. Where a case involves litigation the notorious principle that judges should never be kept waiting leads to an expensive waste of time by everybody else.

Beyond that, greater access to justice can be achieved without adding to the cost to the taxpayer. Civil and criminal cases need to be considered separately. Criminal proceedings are almost invariably started by the public authorities. The accused, who has no choice but to respond, should not be put at a disadvantage through shortage of funds, nor by being forced to exhaust his life savings, nor, under legal aid, by suffering a second-class service. While doing everything possible to streamline the criminal justice system, therefore, the Lord Chancellor should be more generous with criminal legal aid.

An ideal system would pay for first-class representation for virtually everybody accused of crime, regardless of means. The government could still limit the cost because the initiative

in beginning prosecutions and in choosing at what level they should be decided is largely under its control.

Only the government can insist on efficiency by the judges and economy by the Crown Prosecution Service. The steep rise in criminal legal aid in recent years is linked with the preference of the CPS for crown court proceedings over magistrates courts, though the lower courts deliver far better value for money. The government could cut the £282 million criminal legal aid bill by such self-control while improving the quality of service available to those who really need it.

Civil legal aid is entirely different. Many lawyers would like the eligibility conditions to be raised to bring in most of the middle classes.

But here the initiative in starting actions lies with the plaintiff. The cost of supporting a demand-led service, where every action was backed by the state, would immediately soar through the Lord Chancellor's roof — everybody would sue his builder or garageman at public expense every time a piece of work was botched.

Instead of being more generous the Lord Chancellor should be even less so towards those with means. At the same time he should put his full weight behind alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in civil cases. ADR is lawyers' jargon for informal settlements outside the court system, by conciliation and arbitration. The growing fashion in America, it is sorely needed on every high street in Britain.

At present the civil law offers a Rolls-Royce service to people who can afford only bicycles. They should be able to choose how much justice they want to buy, and match their needs and means as they do in all other areas of their lives. They should be able to opt for a level of justice in which it is not necessary to be legally represented at all. Not all lawyers will welcome this, though to their credit many recognise it as the right way to make justice more available.

Without such reforms and innovations, however, Britain will have a legal aid system which offers the worst of all worlds, inefficient, expensive — and a barrier to justice rather than a means of access to it.

NOT BLACK AND WHITE

"I want to be there when the people celebrate, when the people celebrate freedom," sings Hugh Masekela, South African jazz-musician-in-exile. Since President de Klerk released Nelson Mandela, Mr Masekela has indeed been there, to South Africa, and has played in a Johannesburg club. Meanwhile many progressive South African theatre groups and musicians have, in the past few years, performed in Britain. As David Toop reports in the arts pages of *The Times* today, the cultural boycott is a shambles. The African National Congress (ANC), meeting this weekend, should vote to dismantle it.

The boycott, like its sports sister, was designed to prevent both international artists performing in South Africa and South African artists performing abroad. It produced some pretty rum results. Johnnie Clegg is a British-born musician who moved to South Africa at the age of six. He is militantly anti-apartheid, and has been persecuted for his views. He plays with black musicians, but is white himself. Yet the Musicians' Union boycotted him for having played in South Africa. Black South African groups have no problem playing in Britain. Despite the release of Nelson Mandela and the progress that has been made towards dismantling apartheid, the cultural boycott is overseen by the

"cultural desk" of the ANC, which still talks of "cultural workers" and the "cultural struggle". Many in the ANC have made a career out of being "cultural officials". Without a cultural boycott, the cultural desk would cease to exist, and they would be out of a job.

Even progressive musicians and artists in South Africa are beginning to question the credentials of this body and its right to determine who shall and who shall not suffer from the boycott, suffering which embraces those in South Africa whose longing for freedom might have been encouraged by visiting overseas artists but has instead been stalled. Albie Sachs, the lawyer and ANC activist, recently gave a warning that South Africans, having lived for decades under censorship from the right, should beware of ending up under censorship from the left.

As opposition to the current regime fragments, the boycott becomes even more of an anachronism. Artists approved by the ANC are allowed to perform abroad, but what about, a Zulu theatre group sponsored by Inkatha, Chief Buthelezi's organisation? Cultural judgments should be made by audiences, by the public, not by political parties or cabals. The ANC's readiness to drop the cultural boycott will be an excellent test of its democratic credentials.

WORKING FOR PEACE IN THE GULF

From the Dean of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, and the Chancellor of Southwark Cathedral

Sir, A delegation of leading US presiding bishops and other church leaders will be visiting the Middle East, including Baghdad, during the period December 15-20. On December 21 the delegation will meet President Bush and will later attend an ecumenical service for peace in the National Cathedral in Washington. This ecumenical initiative will conclude with a call to the people of the US and the Middle East to pray and work so that a real alternative to war might emerge.

CHARLES ELLIOTT, Dean, Trinity College, Cambridge; PETER B. PRICE, Chancellor, Southwark Cathedral, Montague Close, SE1. December 10.

evitable, and soon. So we must act now in faith and hope in the trust of God, who moves beyond what we can possibly accomplish. At this moment, the peaceful resolution of the Gulf crisis will take a miracle. The miracle must be acted and prayed into being.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES ELLIOTT, Dean, Trinity College, Cambridge.

PETER B. PRICE, Chancellor, Southwark Cathedral, Montague Close, SE1. December 10.

From Wing Commander Richard Dauncey

Sir, The Bishop of Manchester (December 10) is presumably a strong supporter of sanctions against South Africa for he would surely not otherwise claim any great success for them. Many would assert that they had only a marginal effect on the situation, but in any case the whole process of change has taken nearly 30 years for the present stage to be reached in that country and who knows whether it will lead to real democracy.

Three years, let alone 30, would see Kuwait removed, infrastructure and people alike, by the invader. Is this what the bishop wants? Sanctions, however well enforced, have never worked quickly, if at all. If Saddam Hussein moves out, well and good; if not, force will have to be used.

Yours faithfully,

RICHARD DAUNCEY, 34 Main Road, Nappill, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. December 11.

From the Director of the Ditchley Foundation

Sir, While we rejoice at the release of our countrymen and others held hostage in Iraq and Kuwait, let us remember also the Kuwaitis and others who risked so much to shelter and support them during these last four months, and in many cases paid with their lives.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GRAHAM (Ambassador in Baghdad, 1974-7), The Ditchley Foundation, Ditchley Park, Enstone, Oxfordshire. December 11.

Hunts on Trust land

From the Earl of Carnarvon and others

Sir, The council of the National Trust have a heavy responsibility to bear on Thursday when they consider a ban on deer hunting. We believe that this is not an argument for or against hunting but a matter of conservation. We support the views expressed by the late Sir Richard Acland (November 6) and Professor Melanyon (November 12) that if hunting ends it is the deer and the moors that will suffer.

We understand that such a ban will mean a certain end to hunting on the Quantock hills and we believe that this will result in a rapid decline in the deer herd owing to an increase in legal and illegal shooting. A ban will cause serious disruption to hunting on

Exmoor with a subsequent threat to the deer's habitat.

Yours faithfully,

CARNARVON, RAYMOND CARR, R. COURSE (former executive director, League Against Cruel Sports), RALPH VERNEY (former chairman, Nature Conservancy Council), Milford Lake House, Burghclere, Newbury, Berkshire. December 11.

From Mr Harvey R. Jervis

Sir, You report (December 8) the petitions to the National Trust opposing a ban on deer hunting.

I find the prospect of animals being hunted, cornered, attacked or killed needful. The human participants in these so-called sports seem actually to enjoy them.

Yours faithfully,

HARVEY R. JERVIS, Manor Farm, Main Street, Staveley, North Yorkshire.

Chadwick catalogue

From the Director of the Courtauld Institute Galleries

Sir, I cannot understand why Sarah Jane Checkland in her profile of Lynn Chadwick (Saturday Review, December 8) should think it "unaccountable" that I should write about a sculptor whose work I have admired since my days as an assistant keeper at the Tate Gallery (1954-64). Nor did my co-author, Mrs Eva Chadwick, have "persuade Oxford University Press's Clarendon Press" to produce the catalogue of Chadwick's works.

I am, as a general editor, put the proposal to the press following discussions with both Lynn and Eva Chadwick on the form the book might take, which the press, happily, accepted.

I remain, yours faithfully,

DENNIS FARR, Director, Courtauld Institute Galleries, Somerset House, Strand, WC2. December 8.

Firms at risk

From Mr J. B. Knight

Sir, An increase in the uniform business rate at a time of a severe recession, as is widely mooted, would be the final nail in many firms' coffins. These payments have to be met without any consideration of a company's financial situation.

It has been agreed that relief may now be obtained by the return of VAT on bad debts, but who will have to wait for two years. Will interest be paid? I doubt it.

One has only to walk down the high streets of many cities and towns to realise the problems being experienced by so many small businesses. Empty shops abound and sales seem to be everlasting. Only swift and positive action will alleviate the situation.

Yours faithfully,

J. B. KNIGHT, Managing Director, Moore and Brock Ltd., PO Box 5, Barons Quay, Northwich, Cheshire.

Twyford Down

From Dr Arnold Taylor

Sir, The decision to savage Twyford Down notwithstanding its multiple protection as an area specially worthy of preservation, must be reversed. Not only would a tunnel be feasible, affordable and environmentally acceptable, as urged by the Dean of Winchester and his co-signatories (December 1); there is already strong precedent for adopting this alternative in order to preserve amenity values.

In 1986 a new secretary of state for Wales abandoned his predecessor's environmentally damaging "preferred route" and opted for an immersed tube tunnel (the first to be built in Britain) as the proper means of carrying the A55 Chester-Holyhead "expressway" (effectively motorway) across the Conwy estuary without causing grave harm to the setting of Conwy's historic castle and town walls, a decision in accord with their subsequent recognition as a World Heritage monument.

Work on this highly complex operation, involving the pre-fabrication, floating and precision-sinking into the river bed of six dual-carriageway units, each approximately 118 metres long

and displacing 30,000 tonnes, is now nearing completion; the tunnel is already in use by works vehicles and will be fully opened for traffic in 1991.

It is inconceivable that a tunnel could not be bored, at far less cost and in a shorter period of time, through the natural chalk of Twyford Down.

Yours faithfully,

ARNOLD TAYLOR, Rose Cottage, Lincoln's Hill, Chiddingfold, Surrey. December 2.

From Rear Admiral Sir Morgan Morgan-Giles

Sir, The Dean of Winchester and others have raised yet again the route of the M3 past the city. The original public enquiry was in 1971. Now after 20 years of argument and delay it is surely time to go ahead and build this desperately needed section of the motorway.

Apparently any tunnel scheme would cost about £90 million more than the Department of Transport's proposed cutting across Twyford Down.

If that sort of extra money were available from the public purse, one might imagine that the Dean

would prefer to have some of it as a contribution to his current £7

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Compensation for damage at birth

From Miss Sarah Leigh

Sir, Sir Donald Acheson is reported (December 6) as suggesting that children damaged at birth by the negligence of obstetricians should lose their common law rights to compensation. There has indeed been a large increase in claims this year but most of this reflects the log-jam of claimants whose parents did not qualify for legal aid and who until the legal aid rules were changed in April could not sue. The bulge should therefore be quite short-lived.

English law requires compensation for a victim and restoration, as nearly as money can ensure it, to the position he or she would be in if the damage had not occurred.

Why should this principle not apply to children with cerebral palsy as it does to other victims of negligence? The fact that there are a lot of them cannot be a good reason.

In the National Health Service the state now indemnifies people for hospital doctors' negligence. The defendant is almost always the health authority, not the individual doctor. Each child with cerebral palsy is an overwhelming disaster for its family, for the health service and above all for itself. Avoiding this result, and compensating it fairly when it occurs, must be our prime concern.

We need improved obstetric units to prevent disasters and when they do occur a system for providing every victim of disability no matter how caused with a decent income and the cost of

care and equipment needed. The money could be provided on an annual basis according to actual need and corresponding deductions made from damages awards, which would thus be much reduced.

I am, Sir, yours,
SARAH LEIGH,
Leigh, Day & Co. (Solicitors),
37 Gray's Inn Road, WC1.
December 10.

From the President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

Sir, The Powers lecture delivered by Sir Donald Acheson has quite properly raised again the profound effects that litigation is having, and will continue to have, on the discipline of obstetrics and, more importantly, our patients.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 12: The Lord Waddington had an audience of the Queen and took leave upon relinquishing his appointment as Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The Lord Belstead had an audience of Her Majesty and took leave upon relinquishing his appointment as Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Lords.

His Excellency Dr. Humayun Khan was received in audience by the Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Commission as High Commissioner for Pakistan in London.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the High Commission: Mr. Khalid Shah (Minister, Deputy Head of Mission), Mr. Mohammad Yousaf Ali (Counselor, Consular), Mr. Nazir Hussain (Counselor, Political), Captain Sadeq Anwar Malik (Naval Attaché), Group Captain Salim Arshad (Air Attaché), Mr. Malik Mohammad Ahsan (Counselor, Commercial), Mr. Khurshid Asrar (First Secretary, Political), and Mr. Mohammad Nadeem Ajil (Second Secretary).

Regum Khan was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir Patrick Wright (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Mr. David Macmilligan was received in audience by the Queen upon his appointment as British High Commissioner to Belize.

Mrs. Macmilligan was also received by Her Majesty.

Mr. Gordon Duggan was received in audience by the Queen upon his appointment as British High Commissioner to Singapore. Mrs. Duggan was also received by Her Majesty.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, London Federation of Boys' Clubs, this morning opened the new headquarters at Bridge House, Prestons Road, London E14.

His Royal Highness later attended a lunch given by the General Council of British Shipping, on board H.M.Y. Britannia in the Pool of London.

Mr. Brian McGrath was in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Twelfth Man of the Lord's Taverners, this evening attended a reception at St James's Palace.

Lieutenant Commander Malcolm Sillars, R.N. was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 12: The Princess Royal, Patron, Vicrin Support, this morning attended the Victim Support Advisory Board Meeting at Church House, Westminster, London.

This afternoon Her Royal Highness, Chancellor, University of London, attended the Presentation Ceremony at the Royal Albert Hall, London. Mrs. William Nummey was in attendance.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will visit Grove Park School for the physically handicapped at 2.40, and Remploy Southern Division factory at Acton at 3.35.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Master of Trinity House, will visit Bond Helicopters at Aberdeen Airport at 4.35.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will attend a reception given by the Council of the Royal Warrant Holders Association at 20 St James's Square at 6.30.

The Prince of Wales, as Chairman of The Prince of Wales' Committee, will visit projects at Llanfair and Caerleon in the Welshpool area at 11.00, and will present the committee's award to the Tŷ Hydref, Newtown, Powys, at 2.25.

The Princess of Wales, as Patron of the International Spinach Research Trust, will attend a reception in the Atrium, 1 Finsbury Avenue, at 6.30, and attend a charity premiere of *Hobson's Choice* at the Princess Anne Theatre at BAFTA, Piccadilly, at 7.35.

Prince Edward will attend a reception for friends of The Queen at 7.20.

The Duke of Kent, as President of the Engineering Council, will attend a meeting at 10 Mincing Lane, EC3, at 10.30.

The Duchess of Kent, as Patron of the Royal Northern College of Music, will attend the congregation of awards ceremony at 12.30.

Princess Alexandra will attend a "Celebration of Christmas" concert in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, at 6.30 in aid of the charity The New Bridge.

Dinners

Cardiff Business Club
A dinner in honour of the President, Sir Cenadyn Traherne, to mark his 80th birthday was given at the City Hall, Cardiff, last night at which the speakers were the Lord Lieutenant for South Glamorgan, Captain Norman Lloyd-Edwards, the High Sheriff of South Glamorgan, Mr Brian K. Thomas, Lord Tonna and Lord Callaghan. Among the other guests were:

The First Lady Magistrate of Cardiff, Counsellor F. J. Evans and the Master of the Rolls, Mr Justice Michael J. Morris, the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Mr Noddy Bebb, the Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, Mr W. J. Bowen and Mrs Bowen, and Mr Justice Rock and Justice Turner-Warwick.

Law Society
The Lord Chancellor attended a dinner given by the President, Vice-President and Council of the Law Society at Law Society's Hall last night. Others present included:

The Canadian High Commissioner, Mr. L. G. Lewis, the Lord Chancellor, the President of the Family Division, the Vice-Chancellor of the Supreme Court, the Lord Chief Justice, the Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr. C. T. T. Mr. M. S. Lewis, Mr. T. S. Long and Judge Holden.

Royal College of Surgeons
Mr Terence English, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and a Patron of the

OBITUARIES

GROUP CAPTAIN GEORGE BURGES

Group Captain George Burges, OBE, DFC, a fighter pilot in the air battle for Malta during 1940 and 1941, died on November 26 aged 74. He was born in 1916.

THE defence of Malta by three antiquated Gladiator biplanes, Faith, Hope and Charity, for a month in the summer of 1940 is one of the most touching instances of the triumph of foiled hope over material deficiencies in RAF annals, and George Burges was firmly at the centre of it. Burges was a characteristic example of that careless bravery allied to a relentless desire to be at grips with the enemy which is the hallmark of the finest fighting men.

He was serving as personal assistant to the air officer commanding Middle East in 1940 when, on June 10, Mussolini took Italy opportunistically into the war in the wake of the French collapse against the Germans.

The Prince of Wales received the Seal of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (RAF Attaché), Group Captain Salim Arshad (Air Attaché), Mr. Malik Mohammad Abram (Counselor, Commercial), Mr. Khurshid Asrar (First Secretary, Political), and Mr. Mohammad Nadeem Ajil (Second Secretary).

Regum Khan was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir Patrick Wright (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Mr. Max Pike and Mr. Patrick Jefferis were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 12: The Prince of Wales, Honorary Fellow of the Institution of Water and Environmental Management, addressed the institution at The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster, SW1.

Commander Richard Ayland RN and Mr Gerald Ward were in attendance.

His Royal Highness, President, gave a lunch on behalf of The Prince's Trust at Kensington Palace, SW8.

The Prince of Wales received the Seal of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (RAF Attaché), Group Captain Salim Arshad (Air Attaché), Mr. Malik Mohammad Abram (Counselor, Commercial), Mr. Khurshid Asrar (First Secretary, Political), and Mr. Mohammad Nadeem Ajil (Second Secretary).

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KENSINGTON PALACE
December 12: The Prince of Wales attended the 75th Anniversary lunch of the National Federation of Women's Institutes at the Hyatt Carlton Tower, Cadogan Place, SW1.

Dame Jean Maxwell Scott was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE

ST JAMES'S PALACE

December 12: The Duke of Kent, Vice Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, this morning visited Steering Developments Limited, Hemel Hempstead and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Hertfordshire (Mr Simon Bowes Lyon).

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited Peter Brotherhood Limited, Peterborough and was received on arrival by Mr James Crowden (Vice Lord Lieutenant of Cambridge).

The Duke of Kent later visited Stewarts and Lloyds and Victoria Industrial Polymer, Hemington.

Captain the Hon. Christopher Knollys was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

December 12: Princess Alexandra, President, presented a Royal Humane Society Award to Mrs. Stephen Tyrrell at St. James's Palace this afternoon.



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its superior speed to get away.

Even more remarkably, Burges's next kill was Macchi 200 fighter, a design which was at least 60 mph faster than the Gladiator. More Italian bombers fell to Burges's guns throughout July and by the end of the month he had become Malta's first ace, with six combat victories to his credit. So remarkable were Faith, Hope and Charity's exertions that Italian intelligence estimated British fighter strength on Malta at more than 25 aircraft.

When Hurricane reinforce-

ments arrived Burges flew

these also and Malta's air

defences expanded into a full

squadron, No 261, in August

1940. This bore the brunt of

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Let me see the prosperity of your people and share in the happiness of your nation. In the year of grace of those who believed in you, I say unto you, Psalm 106:5 C.N.B.

BIRTHS

BATHEMAN - On December 12th at Matlock, New Zealand, St. Valentine's Day, John Peter and Peter, a son, Harry Michael Howard, 1990.

BATCHELOR - On December 7th 1990, to Caroline, a daughter, Katherine, a daughter, and Harry Michael Howard, a son, Harry Michael Howard.

BENNETT - On December 10th, at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, to Suzanne, a son, James and Richard, a son, James Howard Struan.

CARLEY - On December 11th 1990, to Tracy and Pauline, their daughter, Natasha May.

COLCLOUGH-BROOKES - Monday December 3rd at 10am, Margaret (née O'Keeffe) and David, a son, Angus Edward.

EGERTON - On December 12th, in Jersey, to Sir David Dawson and Richard, a son, Richard Edward.

FRASER - On December 12th, at the Portland Hospital, to Muriel, their daughter, and Phillip, a son, Geoffrey.

GREGORY - On December 5th at the Portman Hospital, to Rita (née Adair) and Harry, a son, Harry, a brother for Sophie.

WILLIAMS - On December 12th at Bridgeton (near Smithfield), Robert, a daughter.

WILSON - On December 12th, at 12pm, at Lucy-Care (see Baker), a son, Charles William Argote.

MARRIAGES

DEAN-EDGTON - On December 12th, at Huddersfield, Patrick and Haverhill Brian, to Margaret.

DEATHS

APKOLD - On December 11th 1990, peacefully at Charing Cross Hospital, London, aged 89 years, beloved husband of Ena and father of Gertie, Funeral Services at Putney, December 18th at 11 am. Donations N/A to the Royal Cancer Fund, Books for the Blind, Aylesbury, Bucks, MK22 3XQ.

BRADWAITE - On December 12th, peacefully at Abingdon-on-Thames Home, Olive Elizabeth, aged 88 years, deceased mother of Philip, Marjorie, Pauline, Andrew, Michael, and Judith, a son, David, a daughter, and Richard, a son-in-law of Dore. He will be greatly missed.

BYAN - On December 11th, John (John) and Rosalie Free, and of Newbury and Castle Co., Tisbury, Dorset. Deeply regretted by his loving wife, Rosemary, and a large section of friends and well-wishers, who have sent messages of condolence, Misses Barbara and the British Heart Foundation.

CHAMBERS - On December 11th, John Charles Henry (John), son of Mr and Mrs John and Richard, a son and daughter, Oliver, Joseph, and Charles, and Christopher, Nicholas, and Gill. Private cremation. Memorial service to be held at a later date.

CURRY - On Monday December 10th 1990, peacefully at home, Edward Aubrey, dear son, beloved husband of June, father of David and Richard, and grandfather of Oliver, Joseph, and Charles, and of the late Christopher, Nicholas, and Gill. Private cremation. Memorial service to be held at a later date.

DODGE - On December 12th 1990, peacefully at home, Edward Aubrey, dear son, beloved husband of June, father of David and Richard, and grandfather of Oliver, Joseph, and Charles, and of the late Christopher, Nicholas, and Gill. Private cremation. Memorial service to be held at a later date.

DRUMMOND - On December 11th, Theodosia, beloved wife of Angus, adored mother of David, and Charles and devoted grandmother of Louis and Victoria. Funeral Westminster December 17th at 11.30 am. Flowers may be sent to A. Francis, Lambeth, London SE1.

EVANS - On December 11th 1990, peacefully at home, John and Charles, and devoted grandmother of Louis and Victoria. Funeral Westminster December 17th at 11.30 am. Flowers may be sent to A. Francis, Lambeth, London SE1.

FARRELL - On December 11th 1990, peacefully at home, John and Charles, and devoted grandmother of Louis and Victoria. Funeral Westminster December 17th at 11.30 am. Flowers may be sent to A. Francis, Lambeth, London SE1.

FEARNSIDE - On December 11th 1990, peacefully at home, John and Charles, and devoted grandmother of Louis and Victoria. Funeral Westminster December 17th at 11.30 am. Flowers may be sent to A. Francis, Lambeth, London SE1.

FRASER - On December 11th 1990, peacefully at home, John and Charles, and devoted grandmother of Louis and Victoria. Funeral Westminster December 17th at 11.30 am. Flowers may be sent to A. Francis, Lambeth, London SE1.

GARRETT - On December 11th 1990, peacefully at home, John and Charles, and devoted grandmother of Louis and Victoria. Funeral Westminster December 17th at 11.30 am. Flowers may be sent to A. Francis, Lambeth, London SE1.

HOGG - On December 11th 1990, peacefully at home, John and Charles, and devoted grandmother of Louis and Victoria. Funeral Westminster December 17th at 11.30 am. Flowers may be sent to A. Francis, Lambeth, London SE1.

JONES - On December 11th 1990, peacefully at home, John and Charles, and devoted grandmother of Louis and Victoria. Funeral Westminster December 17th at 11.30 am. Flowers may be sent to A. Francis, Lambeth, London SE1.

KELLY - On December 11th 1990, peacefully at home, John and Charles, and devoted grandmother of Louis and Victoria. Funeral Westminster December 17th at 11.30 am. Flowers may be sent to A. Francis, Lambeth, London SE1.

LAWRENCE - On December 11th 1990, peacefully at home, John and Charles, and devoted grandmother of Louis and Victoria. Funeral Westminster December 17th at 11.30 am. Flowers may be sent to A. Francis, Lambeth, London SE1.

MARSHALL - On December 11th 1990, peacefully at home, John and Charles, and devoted grandmother of Louis and Victoria. Funeral Westminster December 17th at 11.30 am. Flowers may be sent to A. Francis, Lambeth, London SE1.

MATTHEWS - On December 11th 1990, peacefully at home, John and Charles, and devoted grandmother of Louis and Victoria. Funeral Westminster December 17th at 11.30 am. Flowers may be sent to A. Francis, Lambeth, London SE1.

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Sail around the world by computer

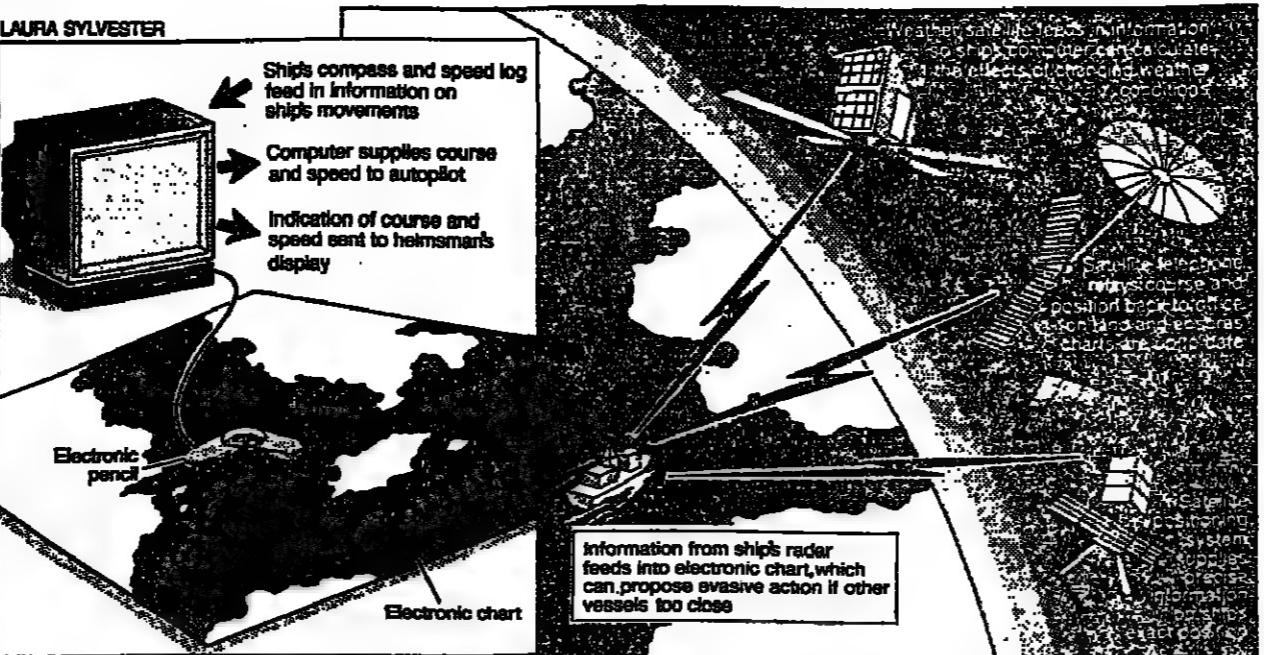
Electronic charts linked to satellite navigation systems could soon guide ships at sea. Chris Partridge looks at Britain's role in the latest developments

Navigation has changed little since the days of Captain Cook. Seamen still draw lines on paper charts to tell the helmsman what course to steer. The electronic devices available are rarely linked together into a comprehensive system. For years, navigators have dreamt about using charts on computer screens. Satellite-positioning systems would locate the ship's position on the screen, and the computer would make all the complex spherical calculations needed to take it around the globe.

Tide tables could be stored in the computer's memory so that it could make corrections for tidal currents. Eventually the computer could take information from meteorological satellites to calculate the effects of weather changes.

Information from the ship's radar could be entered on the electronic chart, allowing the navigation system to alert the crew if other vessels appear to be on a collision course.

The electronic chart would make things easier and clearer for the navigator, too. All



stretches of water shallower than the ship's draught could be coloured red to show no-go areas that could be adjusted to compensate for the state of the tides. Narrow sea lanes, such as wrecks, could be highlighted. The scale of the chart could be varied, from route planner size to those showing individual harbours with every detail, even the ship's outline, to ensure enough room for manoeuvre.

An electronic chart's greatest advantage would be its ability to update charts by sending data via the satellite-telephone system. This would ensure that charts were always up to date and would eliminate the need for a worldwide network of chart offices.

So why is everyone sticking with old-fashioned paper? Oyvind Stene, the director of the Norwegian hydrographic service, believes adoption of electronic charts is inevitable. Norway was the main sponsor of an experimental electronic chart system covering the North Sea, used by a specially equipped vessel. The experiment was mostly successful,

but it covered only a few ports and the routes between them. Later this year, a digital chart of the whole North Sea is to be started, based on standards developed in Norway and stored on optical disc.

Mr Stene, however, sees problems that must be overcome before electronic charts can be used. The first is reliability. "Electronic charts can break down, so paper charts are needed as a backup," he says.

The cost of electronic charts will be high, making them unattractive except for the biggest vessels. Mr Stene admits, and the lack of standardisation of colours and symbols could be dangerous if navigators are unfamiliar with the electronic system. The resolution of even the best computer screens is not comparable with that of a paper chart.

The main problem is that the largest publishers of charts, the United States, Britain and the Soviet Union, have not agreed on standards and are nowhere near implementing plans to publish

digital charts. One small British company, meanwhile, claims to have developed an electronic navigation system that will bring the benefits of computerisation without losing the advantages of paper charts.

The £10,000 Master Yachtman system, from Qubit, of Hampshire, uses a standard paper chart on an electronically sensitive pad. An "electronic pencil" runs over the chart, continually updating its position by referring to the pad below.

The electronic pencil can be run over the desired route, entering the points at which turns have to be made, known as waypoints, into the computer. The computer then calculates all the bearings and distances automatically.

The electronic pencil, more technically known as a puck, can also be used to find positions. The position is entered by a numerical keypad on the puck, lighting up one of a ring of lights on the puck to indicate the direction to be moved. When the puck

Super TVs go on sale

The latest sets cost £15,000

The first high definition televisions have gone on sale to the Japanese public. Despite their love of the latest consumer technology, only the wealthy will be able to afford the new sets; prices start at more than £15,000, and the special-format broadcasts are transmitted for just one hour a day.

HDTV, which promises pictures of the same quality and width as the 35mm film used in cinemas, faces problems both in getting a single standard accepted for its use around the world and in producing sets cheap enough for a mass market to develop.

The three companies selling them, Sony, Matsushita and Hitachi, expect sales to be limited mostly to companies, which are already starting to use them in public areas such as hotel lobbies. But, as Sony points out, a few people will insist on buying the very latest now.

With orders so far in the hundreds, Matsushita is prepared to make only 50 sets a month. The purpose of putting the new products on sale now, however, is to show that Japan has a lead over rival systems being developed in Europe and the United States and to get people accustomed to the idea.

Next year, NHK plans to use a satellite to broadcast eight hours of HDTV a day. Within five years, the manufacturers say, the price should fall below £4,000 and more than a million sets could be sold in Japan.

HDTV sets display rectangular rather than the almost square pictures of current sets and use twice the number of video lines to provide increased clarity.

The makers hope the improved quality will encourage consumers to pay more for their sets over the next decade.

In Britain, viewers are unlikely to see HDTV broadcasts until the mid Nineties when European companies hope to have established a version that will be compatible with existing television sets.

MATTHEW MAY

Search for the clean car engine

The first official British study to measure atmospheric levels of hydrogen gas is being launched by scientists attempting to understand the way vehicle exhaust emissions interact with sunlight to pollute the air.

The study, funded by the environment department, could lead to a redesign of car engines so that important exhaust wastes are burnt more thoroughly. It could also throw light on an emerging threat to polar ozone layers from hydrogen gas which, some scientists believe, should be addressed with a seriousness traditionally reserved for vapours such as aerosols and refrigerant fluids.

Vehicle exhausts emit a proportion of unburnt fuel and hydrocarbons which, in sunlight, are broken down into a variety of gases, including peroxyacetyl nitrate (PAN), ozone and hydrogen. PAN and ozone can damage crops and harm humans, causing eye irritations and other maladies.

British scientists are to analyse vehicle exhaust gases to cut air pollution

most polluting, we could take steps to reduce those from exhausts," Dr Jones says.

The spin-off of the research could have implications for environmental scientists trying to account for the seasonal holes in the ozone layer above the poles. A team of American scientists are claiming to have detected a rise in atmospheric hydrogen gas from 200 parts per billion before the industrial revolution to 500 parts per billion today.

The team, from the Oregon Graduate Institute in Beaverbrook, argues that accumulating hydrogen in the lower atmosphere may leak into the stratosphere, forming water vapour, which could increase cloud cover over the planet's coldest regions and speed up the destruction of ozone molecules. The British study will add more data on atmospheric hydrogen levels, which may help confirm the increase.

NICK NUTTALL



Combating pollution: redesigned car engines would burn waste gases more thoroughly

MATTHEW MAY

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Building Research Establishment

ENERGY, BUILDINGS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

RD&D Opportunities at Garston, Hertfordshire

The Building Research Establishment is the leading national centre for research into the impact of buildings on the environment. Energy use in buildings accounts for half the CO₂ production of the UK and one of BRE's major programmes aims to improve the energy efficiency of buildings through demonstration of new technologies and promotion of good practice. The work involves close collaboration with industry.

BRE is looking for well motivated people with good interpersonal qualities; sound judgement and appropriate qualifications to join an established team working in the following areas:

STRATEGY ASSESSMENT

Development of data and models describing energy use in buildings, followed by assessments of the extent to which energy efficiency measures have been or could be applied.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Formulation, management and promotion of a portfolio of projects to help people to improve their energy efficiency.

GREENHOUSE EFFECT

Assessment of the impact of energy efficiency measures in buildings on the production of CO₂ and other gases which contribute to global warming and other environmental effects.

MARKETING ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Organisation of publications, workshops and seminars to get energy efficiency information across to key decision makers.

For all these opportunities you should have a good degree or equivalent qualification in Physics, Engineering, Mathematics, Chemistry, etc. You should also have relevant postgraduate experience in research, commerce or industry.

These challenging posts not only provide significant career experience, but also offer the satisfaction of contributing to a more stable and healthy global environment. Starting salaries will be in the range of £12,800 - £22,000 with prospects for progression up to £26,600 or further depending upon performance. The more senior posts carry responsibility for the management of a small team.

Relocation assistance may be given. For further details and an application form, please write to Mrs G Bright, Building Research Establishment, Garston, Watford, Herts WD2 7JR, or phone 0923 664745. Forms should be returned by 28 December 1990. Please quote reference S90/654 (BRES).



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OPPORTUNITIES IN N. IRELAND

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To help implement our strategic plan and to put Northern Ireland at the centre of advanced software engineering, we need a number of key staff of the highest calibre with solid, practical, "real world" experience.

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Applications, which will be in full confidence, should be sent with full cv, quoting the above reference number and should be addressed to:

The Company Secretary

INSTITUTE OF SOFTWARE ENGINEERING
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Quaking before the Big One

The shock that hit San Francisco in 1989 had been predicted a year earlier. Henry Gee asks just how accurate the forecasting can be

Californians are used to earthquakes, but the one that struck San Francisco in the evening rush hour of October 17, 1989, was the biggest in the area since 1906. Just 12 hours later, scientists at the United States Geological Observatory said they had given warning in a report a year earlier that there could be an earthquake.

They claimed the report said there was a 20 per cent probability of an earthquake of magnitude 7 hitting the San Francisco peninsula within 30 years. But an earthquake of magnitude 6.5 in the Santa Cruz Mountains, southeast of the city, was thought to be more likely, at 30 per cent, for the same period. The 1989 earthquake, of 7.1 magnitude, was in this area.

In 1984, Dr Lynn Sykes, of the Lamont Doherty Geological Observatory and Columbia University, said the section of the San Andreas fault southeast of San Francisco merited special attention, forecasting that an earthquake of magnitude 7 was likely in the next 30 years.

Dr Sykes based the prediction on the pattern of small earthquakes that preceded the main shock, an idea he examines with Dr Steven Jaume in *Nature* magazine today.

If big earthquakes follow small ones, this might allow some degree of prediction. But can the research-

ers forecast when the next big earthquake will strike San Francisco? Here there is a dilemma. Several decades of relative calm settled over the San Francisco Bay area after the 1868 and 1906 earthquakes. However, it is still too soon to say whether the 1989 shock will be followed by a similar jolt, or whether it is simply the harbinger of another big earthquake.

If that is the case, Dr Sykes and Dr Jaime think it may be much nearer the city itself than the 1989 shock, perhaps close to the 1906 epicentre. Even though it would not be as large an earthquake as the 1989 shock — which was itself only one-fifteenth the strength of the great disaster of 1906 — greater potential loss of life and property damage would make it the Big One in the minds of Californians.

Earthquake prediction has a respectable success rate. Because the circumstances of an earthquake depend more on the local geology than general theory, prediction depends on a detailed knowledge of everything that has gone before.

In the western US, there is comprehensive information on every big shock for the past 150 years, enabling a detailed study of the 1868, 1906 and 1989 earthquakes. Records in Japan, another earthquake-prone region, go back to the beginning of the 18th century. The



Quake pattern: was last year's shock the Big One or a forerunner?

large San Francisco earthquakes seem to follow a pattern. There is a decades-long crescendo of small shocks, culminating in the main earthquake, which is followed by a long period of calm. Furthermore,

the preliminary rumbles rarely happen on the part of the fault where the main shock is to be unleashed. Instead, they tend to be centred in a ring around the soon-to-be epicentre, what researchers call the

Mogi Doughnut, named after Kiyoo Mogi, the Japanese seismologist who first noticed the pattern in a study of earthquakes in Japan in 1944 and 1946.

Researchers think the large earthquakes occur when the accumulated strain in a geological fault is released. This strain builds up over many years as the tectonic plates of the Earth's crust, meeting at the fault line, rub against each other.

The tectonic plates continue to move, even after the earthquake. This leads to a further build-up of strain, resulting in a flurry of small earthquakes and culminating in the main shock, which releases the strain once more.

Japan, Siberia and the American west coast lie on the so-called Circle of Fire, a seismically active edge of the Pacific tectonic plate. Researchers on the Pacific coast have scored prediction successes, despite the different geological conditions that apply locally. Researchers say that forecasts that cannot be more precise than the nearest decade could improve. This is because the measurements of strain in the ground, and initiatives such as the global positioning system can calculate fault movements with an error of less than 1cm per 1,000km from orbit.

However, Dr Allan Lindh, of the US Geological Survey, points out in today's *Nature*, that earthquakes are superficial side-effects of processes deep within the Earth. Once we know what these are, we may understand earthquakes better.

© Nature Times News Service 1990

E, by gum, may be good for your teeth

Dental fillings could become a thing of the past, thanks to unexpected help from preservatives

The shining smiles of today's children are a tribute to the effects of fluoride in water supplies and toothpaste. The number of rotting teeth has fallen sharply in developed countries in the past 20 years, reducing the need for the drilling and filling that once seemed an inevitable tax.

A group of Norwegian dental-hygiene specialists at the University of Oslo has now, however, chosen to question this belief. They do not doubt that fluoride, with its enamel-strengthening properties is a valuable aid to dental health, but they point out that in many countries the fall in the number of dental cavities began before fluoride was introduced. What, then, caused it?

Professor Harald Eriksen, a member of the group, says there are a number of possible explanations. One is that the bacteria responsible for tooth decay began to lose their virulence, as have other pathogenic

organisms in the past. A more fanciful theory, which the group put to the test, is that the introduction of preservatives in food and drink from about 1960 onwards had some influence on the balance of bacteria in the mouth. The function of preservatives such as benzene and sorbic acids is, after all, to control bacteria in foodstuffs. Might they not have the same effect in the mouth?

Reports of food consumption from the Norwegian Bureau of Statistics were used to work out the amount of both these preservatives in the diet. Calculations were then made of the concentrations of the preservatives in the mouth, and used as the basis for testing against cultures of the bacteria that cause

tooth decay. They found that the concentrations of preservatives did indeed have a "slight, but not insignificant" impact on the growth of the bacterial culture.

Professor Eriksen is cautious about declaring that this is one reason for the decline in tooth decay — down 50 per cent or more in most western countries — but he is sufficiently persuaded to continue the work and to follow up the preliminary results, published recently in the Norwegian Medical Association journal, with a more detailed study.

Are these despised E numbers really good for you? It is amusing to think that modern food and drink, blamed for almost every ill that

affects us, may actually be helping to preserve our teeth.

The Oslo work could be more than just a historical curiosity. Dentists believe that if further improvements in fighting tooth decay are to be made, they will come from treatments designed to eliminate the bacterium *Streptococcus mutans* from the mouth.

Fluoride has strengthened tooth enamel; now the battle must be taken to the bacterium that generates the acids that rot it away.

A variety of methods has been tried, from simple mouth-washing to painting bactericidal agents on the teeth and protecting them from salivary action by a thin layer of polyurethane. Two scientists at the University of Toronto reported two years ago that this method appeared effective in eliminating *streptococcus mutans* in 33 adults tested.

NIGEL HAWKES



A growing demand for scientific and technical workers'

have recently interviewed British staff for relocation.

Andersen Consulting has located its European Software Centre in Sophia Antipolis, a technology park in the Italian hillsides overlooking Nice, and wants British staff, including analyst programmers and project leaders with experience of engineering software.

The Institute of Manpower Studies, at Sussex university, points out in a recent report on the European labour market that employers are beginning to tackle the internationalisation of their industries. The report says there is a growing demand in Europe for employees in the scientific and technical fields.

Richard Pearson, the deputy director of the IMS, says:

"Even those employers with

purely UK-based activities, such as

much of the public sector, will not be immune to the development of a European dimension to

the labour market, as continental recruiters target the

UK and individuals start to seek jobs

across national borders."

The British Computer Society (BCS) and the Engineering Council are trying to raise the profile of the professional competence of members across the Continent and the benefits to technologists of gaining qualifications in the run up to 1992.

Such organisations, however, are finding that commercial companies tend not to ask candidates for formal qualifications in information technology nor require employees to be members of any professional association.

Alan Rousell, the BCS president, says: "No self-respecting chief executive would dream of appointing a finance director who did not belong to a professional body; a chief engineer who did not belong to his; and yet he will happily appoint a director of information technology without even recognising the BCS exists."

LESLIE TILLEY

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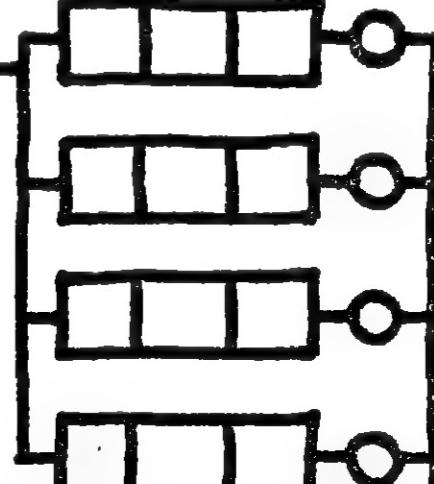
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Closing date for

MEDICAL BRIEFING Dr Thomas Stuttaford

Turning on the heat

To political commentators, a man in his late forties is young, but to a urological surgeon he is already ageing, for by the age of 50 one out of two men have evidence of prostatic disease. Patients and their doctors tend to ignore the minor symptoms of early benign prostatic hypertrophy — the enlargement of the prostatic gland which encircles the urethra where it leaves the bladder, rather than the way that the jubilee clip surrounds the hose which leads from a car's radiator. Enlargement of the gland, which secretes three-fifths of the semen, is an inevitable accompaniment of ageing, and as it enlarges it constricts the urethra. Just as tightening a jubilee clip would obstruct the flow in a car's cooling system, so does prostatic enlargement restrict urinary flow.

Early symptoms (having to get up once a night, being last to leave the stalls, even dribbling on a bit) are a social nuisance. As they get worse, sleep is constantly disturbed, and the urinary frequency and urgency interfere with business and social life and can become disabling. Later, if the warnings are still ignored, the straining to pass urine may cause dilation of the upper urinary tract, and eventually damage, sometimes fatally, the kidneys. Treatment is often postponed because even if the patient has no fear of surgery he may be reluctant to face the changes in his sex life caused by the standard operation, a TUR (transurethral resection).

This operation damages the nerves around the bladder neck so that when ejaculating thereafter the semen instead of being forcibly discharged, trickles back into the bladder. The quantity of semen is greatly reduced and the quality and length of the orgasm also suffers; frequently the surgery provides the coup de grace to an already failing sex life.

Microwaving the prostate with

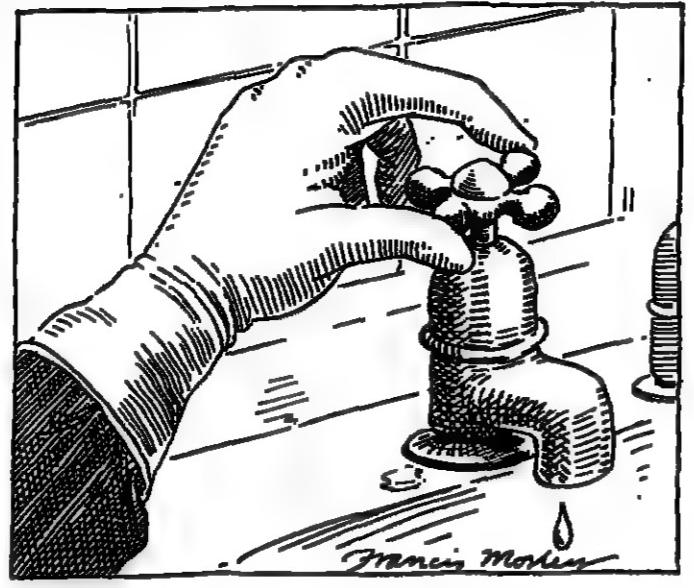
thermotherapy by heating the prostate to above 45C offers a hope for middle-aged men that in future they may be able to retain both dignity and a sex life. The treatment, one visit only, needs no anaesthesia, no hospital admission, no use of catheters and messy bags, no time off work, and afterwards the patient, with a smaller but still functioning prostate, still has a normal orgasm with a normal quantity of semen. For thermotherapy spares the periphery of the prostate gland even as it burns the adenomatous tissue which has caused trouble.

This week the Harley Street

Clinic unveiled a new French machine, the Prostalon, which provides the latest in transurethral microwave therapy. The machine heats the centre of the prostate by means of a probe inserted into the urethra — the urethral lining, meanwhile, being protected by cooling. There is no pain after treatment. Mr Roger Kirby, one of the surgeons operating the Prostalon, said:

"The older system, in which the heat was delivered from the rectum, was cheaper but much of the heat was absorbed by the rectal wall, several visits were necessary and the results were less satisfactory. Prostalon therapy has been used on over 1,200 patients worldwide with over 90 per cent success."

Prostalon therapy is conducted under ultrasound control. An ultrasound, together with blood tests, is used to exclude malignant disease, for as yet thermotherapy is only recommended for benign enlargement even though evidence suggests that it is highly efficient in destroying cancer cells.



No need to spare the rod



No Smacking Week starts on New Year's Day. Schoolmasters disagree over corporal punishment. Colonel Stuart Townsend, of Hill House, is reported to be opposed to corporal punishment, whereas Sir Rhodes Boyson, a former education minister, seems to approve of the occasional whack. Before the war, schoolmasters

were in no doubt, however. Nowhere was this more apparent than in Jesuit schools, where it was thought that to spare the rod not only spoilt the child for this life but probably resulted in eternal damnation. In consequence, schoolboys spent long hours discussing ways in which their skin could be so toughened and anaesthetised that they would not feel the "tolly" or ferule, the traditional instrument of chastisement. Despite dormitory plotting, no prophylactic treatment was ever invented, but now a near-perfect skin anaesthetic which would have been the answer to boys' prayers has been invented. Emla cream is the combination of two lipid-soluble local anaesthetics which perme-

trate the skin. It is so effective that it provides sufficient anaesthesia to allow the taking of split skin grafts. However, its principal value is as an aid in the hundreds of minor procedures carried out in consulting rooms. Small skin nodules and warts, including genital warts, can be removed after its application and injections can be carried out painlessly. Although not officially recommended for this use, when put on a child's grazed knee it enables the doctor to remove chips of gravel or granite without the usual accompanying howls. One doctor even keeps a tube of Emla by his oven so that if his wife burns her wrists as she takes out the Sunday joint she is still able to enjoy lunch.

Raising a glass

Their worries are unnecessary. Heavy alcohol consumption should be avoided by any woman who might become pregnant as it can cause this rare syndrome but it is a study from Australia, reported in *Pulse* magazine, which followed 655 women (some of whom drank daily), confirmed that light, or even moderate, drinking does not harm the baby. Women who stick to a couple of glasses of

wine have nothing to be concerned about. Indeed, the authors conclude that the advice to abstain totally is not only unjustified, but counter-productive as it causes guilt and worry.

"I'm sure you have to suffer to produce something worthwhile," says Dr Porter, "but whether being ill causes genius is unproven. For every Keats there were millions of consumptives; hundreds of opium-takers for every Coleridge. At the same time, if they had been treated they might not have produced what they did. Take a rather strange genius like John Clare, for instance, who ended up in an asylum. Today he would probably be on Largactil, and not

written the late string quartets?"

Dr O'Shea, a senior house officer in ophthalmology at Frimley Park Hospital, details in his book the health profiles of 19 composers, from Bach to Gershwin. He is currently doing similar research on political leaders. "With politicians the experience of illness seems almost always to have been deleterious, but the musicians somehow used it to enhance productivity. These people started off with phenomenal gifts, but I think you do need a bit of torment to create."

Musicians are favourite subjects for retrospective diagnosis, but other spheres have provided fruitful ground recently for researchers. Jane Austen may have had Addison's disease, where the adrenal glands failed to produce vital

hormones; Anton Chekhov was probably depressive; and Van Gogh was probably not a madman at all, but a victim of severe Ménière's disease, and his ear mutilation could have been a desperate attempt to rid of the torment of tinnitus.

Is all this at best a mere academic exercise, and at worst, prurience? Professor Selwyn believes medical biography is fascinating in itself. "It gives an extra dimension to the art, and it can be invigorating and inspiring to know what people achieved despite their pain. It shows the resilience of the human spirit."

One recurring theme in retrospective diagnosis is the frequency with which contemporary doctors made matters worse. Dr O'Shea believes the practice of tapping the fluid in Beethoven's stomach may have hastened his end by two years — and two years of Beethoven's life is quite something".

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• *Music and Medicine*, by Dr John O'Shea, is published by J.M. Dent, price £18.95.

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Was illness just music to Mozart's ears?

Pain sometimes goes hand in hand with artistic genius. Liz Gill on the popular science of historical diagnosis

There are some doctors for whom a little Mozart ideally means a sliver of his bone or a scraping of tissue, anything that might enable modern science to solve a 200-year-old puzzle.

The composer, who died in 1791 at the age of 35 and was buried, without a post-mortem, in a pauper's grave, remains the most tantalising of subjects for those interested in retrospective diagnosis. As Dr John O'Shea, the author of *Music and Medicine*, says: "Mozart is the ultimate mystery. With someone like Schubert, while it is tragic that he died of typhoid fever, really the file is closed. But with Mozart there is always this element of doubt. And we lost so much with his death. He was at the height of his powers."

Retrospective diagnosis can reach back almost any number of years. An article in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine* attempted to work out the chemical process whereby Lof's wife became a pillar of salt; another argued that much of the leprosy in the Bible was in fact neurodermatitis, a condition related to stress and thus amenable to cure by Christ's touch.

Interest in medical history has grown in recent years, according to Professor Sydne Selwyn, the director of the postgraduate diploma course in the subject at Westminster and Charing Cross Hospital's medical school.

Professor Selwyn is intrigued by the influence of infection on the course of events, not only on the large scale — "we know the Black Death swept away feudalism" — but also on the individual. What would have happened if Prince Albert had not died of typhoid, or if Napoleon's haemorrhoids, the result of repeated bouts of dysentery, had not been painfully inflamed at the Battle of Waterloo?

Whether suffering contributes to the creative process, however, is a matter for debate. Dr Roy Porter, a lecturer in the history of medicine at the Wellcome Institute, says there is some evidence that consumption and its metabolism-increasing fevers enhanced the senses and fuelled the imagination. Similarly, some of the opium-based drugs taken to relieve symptoms produced highly unusual states of mind.

"I'm sure you have to suffer to produce something worthwhile," says Dr Porter, "but whether being ill causes genius is unproven. For every Keats there were millions of consumptives; hundreds of opium-takers for every Coleridge. At the same time, if they had been treated they might not have produced what they did. Take a rather strange genius like John Clare, for instance, who ended up in an asylum. Today he would probably be on Largactil, and not



Suffering for their art: (clockwise from top left) Beethoven, Van Gogh, Mozart and Jane Austen

It can be invigorating and inspiring to know what people achieved despite their pain'

written the late string quartets?"

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The Times Saturday

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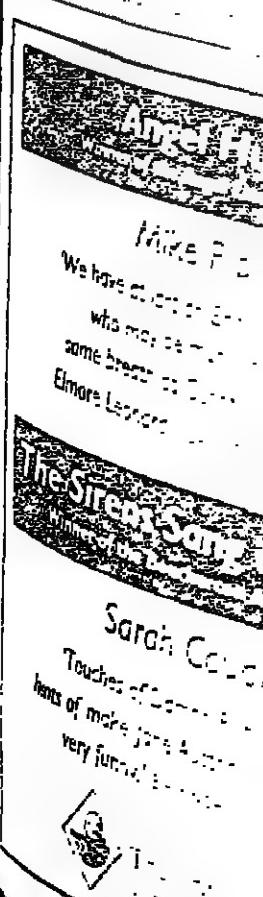
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Back to the Brothers, knots and all

Andrei Navrozov on the rough trade of rendering Russian masterworks into English that reads like the original, or not

Although both were originally published in America by small presses with government grant support, these books represent two opposing forces in the world of translation from the Russian, and perhaps, more broadly, in western culture as a whole. On the face of it, a new English rendering of *The Brothers Karamazov* would seem to be the quintessential academic exercise, while the first complete edition of Akhmatova's poems, with originals facing the English versions, is a genuine contribution to literature. Let us test this preconception by opening the latter at random.

Here is the beginning of a poem from Akhmatova's *White Flock*. I adapt traditional transliteration to enable the reader to grasp her prosodic message:

Uzhe kleenoye leesti
Na prid steyut leebidiny...

"Already the maple leaves", translates Hemmehmeyer, "are falling on the swan pond." If lines from Housman had been accurately rendered into Esperanto and transmitted in Morse code by a Basque shepherd, more of what makes poetry would have survived, I think.

The next line focuses the hypnotic syllable, and this being Akhmatova, infuses it with tragedy:

He okrovivenny kusty...

"Krov", etymologically related to the English "raw", means "blood". Sanguine clusters of this

THE COMPLETE POEMS OF ANNA AKHMATOVA

Translated by Judith Hemmehmeyer
Edited, with an introduction,
by Roberta Reeder
Zephyr Press, distributed by
Airlift Book Company,
two volumes £25.00

THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV

By Fyodor Dostoevsky
Translated by Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky
Quarto, £15.00

raw "v" are proffered in an autumnal diminuendo:

Nespáchno zréyushei rybiny.

The bushes of quicken [rowan], ripening unburied, are now stained with blood. In Hemmehmeyer, anecdotally, the leaves keep falling "on" the bushes, which become "late-ripening". But the howlers in this book are not as bewildering as its premises, for only someone with a deaf ear and the blind ambition to capture a market would dare translate the "complete poems" of a poet who, after all, spent a lifetime writing them. In her preface, Hemmehmeyer describes how she "decided to learn Russian" in 1973.

Larissa Volokhonsky was born in Leningrad, and this issue of her collaboration with Richard Pevear is nothing short of a total revision in western perceptions of Dostoevsky as a writer of prose.

Where previous translators of *The Brothers Karamazov* sought to sandpaper the novelist's diction on the assumption — still widespread even in Russia — that he was a better "thinker" than he was a "writer", this version makes him bristle like freshly varnished wood. That "roughness", which the more superficial Russian reader has, over the years, been accustomed to gloss over and think himself generous for overlooking, is of course Dostoevsky's very essence.

The new Volokhonsky-Pevear version keeps the superficial English reader from repeating the mistake of his Russian counterpart. It reads "like the original", as some say Dickens always does in Russian. What is convoluted or tortuous, strained or fanciful in Dostoevsky is here transported intact — lock, stock and barrel — in the belief that everything done by a writer of genius is, above all else, deliberate. The result would have been remarkable enough owing solely to that noble and stubborn premise. Yet it is also a miracle of intelligent, meticulous critical analysis — of the kind that must of necessity underlie an original work of translation — and this makes every page of the new *Karamazov* a permanent standard, and an inspiration.

As for the broader question that comes to mind when these two books are said to represent opposing cultural forces, the answer, I suggest, is this. A book is not a product. Do not attempt to judge it by the niche that it is intended to fill.



Dostoevsky, Slav master of the crooked timber of humanity, rendered into rough-hewn new English

Much mood ado about not a lot

Jasper Rees

AS IN MUSIC And Other Stories



By Kathy Page
Macmillan, £12.99

ALL ABOUT WOMEN

By Andrew M. Greeley
Robert Hale, £13.95

ACT OF RAGE

By Joseph Hayes
Robert Hale, £14.95

FIRST this week to Kathy Page, whose third novel, last year's *Island Paradise*, harvested a full crop of praise for its precise, imaginative style. As in Music, an anthology of fictional grottoes, finds her on similarly good form linguistically. But there is a sense in which the brevity of this other genre works against the brevity of her prose. Many of these pieces undeniably befit a title that in fact refers to the final story, being not significantly more than literary mood music. In all of them there is a competently wrought sense of atmosphere, but there is little into which the reader can sink a set of incisors — the spiky little moment of truth or eerie apercu that is one of the short story's traditional ingredients.

Page's frequent theme is the sometimes liberating, sometimes problematic malfunctioning of the body. The other-worldly, variously unhinged people of her stories are blind or dumb or amnesiac, victimised by disease, afflicted by their own emotions, or ostracised by their fellow men and women. In "The Ancient Sidiennes" tourists visiting an abandoned desert city discover that its inhabitants throw on giddiness. In "The Reason for Grief" a mother saves her incapable twin sons from having to earn their keep by slashing their jugular veins. These two stories are exceptional in a boneless book that contains many decorative sentiments in which nothing compelling seems to happen.

The shortcoming of Page's stories is that they are not really about anything. Andrew M. Greeley's in *All About Women* are about grace and favour. They might equally be about men, many of whom narrate and participate. But there is something courteous in Father Greeley's wittily demeanour that insists on the limelight to the sex of which, as a Catholic priest, he has scant sexual knowledge. The church and its representatives may guide his bruised, impassioned, wilful characters (mostly Chicagoans of flesh stock) towards the pocket salvation provided at the end of each story, though this is not to say that his men are not mental undressers, and his women not seen, to use the author's word, as "objectifications". As Greeley's people look back in their dotage to moments of inertia that have

determined the course of their lives — a missed kiss or an unspoken word — the prevailing spirit is not of sadness, but of generosity. Some of the pieces are too well-intentioned to be anything but bland, but the cumulative achievement of this book is to contravene one of the first laws of fiction — that only the evil are interesting.

Act of Rage, on the other hand, obeys that edict to the letter. Like Greeley, Joseph Hayes is a prolific American craftsman. *Act of Rage* turns in a highly professional thriller about an act of rape. Carole, the victim, is traumatised by the realisation that her unseen violator is someone she knows: as she likes everyone she knows, it must have been someone she likes — one out of her husband, his best buddy, and various others. The lone man above suspicion is veteran former NYC cop Henry Lindheim, whose investigations reveal, in the manner of *Twink Peaks*, that, guilty of the current crime or not, everyone is tainted with an incriminating secret, not least the pillars of the social establishment, whom his seniors will not allow him to suspect. Hayes alternately tells his story from the point of view of the neurotic victim and the stolid investigator, modulating the tone nicely between the two of them.

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The Crime Club
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OSAMU DAZAI is gradually becoming known in the West as a major Japanese writer. He was born in the far north of Honshu in 1909, and committed suicide in 1948, after several unsuccessful attempts in the course of his short life. His two great novels, *The Setting Sun* and *No Longer Human*, were written during the last two years of his life, and were published in English translation by Donald Keene in 1956 and 1958. These are his best-known works in the West. In Japan, people still throw flowers into the Tama River Canal where he drowned himself with his mistresses, and pay homage at his grave.

Now his other works, mainly short stories and autobiographical essays, are being issued in English. His travel diary, *Return to Tsugawa*, which is also autobiographical, was published in 1985. *Crackling Mountain* opens with a substantial essay, *Memories*, that at times reads like fiction, about his childhood and youth. His family was rich and powerful, and young Osamu had every advantage, yet there was in his character from the start a comic rebelliousness that when he reaches adolescence irresistibly reminds one of Salinger's Holden Caulfield. There is the same wry self-mockery and one can hear the voice breaking.

Then the other instructors started yelling me. They gave all sorts of reasons for dishing out such punishment. I was yawning, grinning, or whatever. My unwilling yawning apparently became a subject of conversation in the teachers' room. It amused me to think what dumb things they talked about there.

Apart from the translator's deplorable "or whatever", it might be

Now out of Japan something new

James Kirkup

CRACKLING MOUNTAIN

By Osamu Dazai
Translated by James O'Brien
Peter Owen, £13.95

FIVE THOUSAND RUNAWAYS

By Takeshi Kaito
Translated by Cecilia Segawa Seigle
Peter Owen, £13.95

Holden himself speaking. There is a tonic disrespect for the worlds of both young and old. Our anti-hero detests sports:

Whenever our school competed in tennis, judo, or even baseball, I had to join the cheering section. This made me dislike high school all the more... When I spied an opportunity, I'd slip away from the cheering section and go home.

At home, he reads books, writes and performs plays, listens to music and is utterly, comically, self-absorbed, as any budding writer should be:

I was very intrigued by my face. When weary of reading, I would take out a hand-mirror and gaze at myself. Smiling, frowning, looking contemplative with my cheek resting on my palm, I never got

O.E. can stand for distinctly Outré Evil

CRIME

Chris Petit

I WAS DORA SUAREZ

By Derek Raymond
Scribner, £13.95

came up to the old woman without a word, got hold of her as if she were a load of last week's old rubbish and hurled her through the front of the grandfather clock which stood just inside the door of the flat, using strength that even he didn't know he had."

In an extraordinarily sustained piece of writing, Raymond first charts the psychopathology of the murderer, then attempts to identify the nature of that violence. In doing so, he shows increasing impatience with the conventions of the genre. The plot has the fizziness of a B-movie scenario — a Soho club with an inner sanctum that specialises in the most depraved entertainment imaginable — and the routine leg-work interests him much less than his bizarre immersion into, and identification with, the tortured worlds of the killer and victim. With the latter, this verges on the necromantic, so much so that Raymond's detective now seems more at ease as a medium for the dead than in communication with the living, who are greeted with a squalid, barely controlled rage. The result is a book full of coagulating disgust and compassion for the world's contamination, disease and mutilation, all dwelt on with a feverish, metaphysical intensity that recalls Donne and the Jacobean more than any of Raymond's contemporaries. I cannot think of another work in this field so obsessed with the skull beneath the skin.

that teachers and students would be embarrassed by having to pronounce the word in class, for much of the archaic Japanese method of language teaching consists of reading aloud, copying the teacher's often atrocious accent.

The title story is one of the best-known Japanese folk-tales, given several unexpected and delightful twists by Dazai. "Crackling Mountain" was written, along with four other folk tales, during the second world war, and Dazai's version has a freedom of fantasy and humour that reminds one continually of Lewis Carroll and Edward Lear. Dazai was reacting against another kind of censorship, the bowdlerising of folk tales, which prim and proper educators had decided were too cruel and violent for children. Again I met the same kind of censoriousness when I wrote my own versions of the tales, and in my collection of stories from the *Arabian Nights* exception was taken to the famous story of the hunchback and his various misfortunes, because any reference to physical deformities raises protests in Japan. For that reason, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* is the least favourite of Hugo's works. But the most extraordinary tale in this collection is "Heed my Plea", which is Dazai's original interpretation of the New Testament — a homoerotic passion between Jesus and Judas that is the cause of Judas' betraying kiss.

Beside Dazai, Takeshi Kaito seems rather small beer, but his stories contain fascinating depictions of the Vietnamese conflict that the author covered as a journalist. The translation is shaky — "Bach invention", dry martinis in a balloon glass, "anticipating someone to stop them", and so on, ad nauseam.

Dark old Satanic mill house

HORROR

Anne Billson

SWEET HEART

By Peter James
Gollancz, £13.95

THE haunted house story is a trusty staple of supernatural fiction. Peter James's third novel is in the traditional old dark house vein, with a judicious sprinkling of gruesome death tacked on for the bloodthirsty modern market. Annoying yuppie Charley (short for Charlotte) and Tom buy an old mill deep in the heart of the Sussex countryside. She is trying to get pregnant. He — the dad — is making eyes at her best friend. Surprise! Their new home just happens to have been the site of traumatic betrayal and subsequent violent demise in the past. Reader yawns with *déjà vu* and prepares to sign off, but then a strange thing happens; though James's plot is as creaky as ancient mill timber, he possesses a genuine gift for storytelling. It doesn't make the plot any less predictable or the heroine any less annoying, but it does keep the reader turning the pages and shuddering at all the things that go bump in the night. Animal-lovers should be warned that dogs and fish come out of it very badly.

• **Best New Horror**, edited by Stephen Jones and Ramsey Campbell (Robinson, £6.99). The title is spot-on. This really is the cream of the new crop, fronted by a jacket illustration so scary I had to wrap it in a brown paper bag to avoid giving myself the heebie-jeebies late at night. Stephen Gallagher's "The Horn" (motorway, blizzard, breakdown) did nothing to set my mind at rest. Anyone who is curious about the state of contemporary horror fiction should grab a copy of this book and devour it.

• **Dark Voices 2**, edited by David Sutton and Stephen Jones (Pan, £3.99). This is none other than our old friend *The Pan Book of Horror* given a shot in the arm and modish new house style. Sutton and Jones have compiled a pleasing rag-bag of big names, Pan Horror veterans, and first-timers such as Michael Marshall-Smith, whose "The Man Who Drew Cats" (subtle, beautifully understated stuff about a pavement artist with peculiar powers) marks him out as a name to watch. I also liked Marcus Gold's "The Vulture" — the sort of Grand Guignol scenario with a high yuck factor for which this series is renowned.

• **Soul Eater**, by K. W. Jeter (Pan, £3.99). I thought I'd had it up to here with novels about possessed children, but this one is distinguished by unusually eloquent writing and a firm grasp of characterisation. David Braemer realises something is up when his ten-year-old daughter plunges a knife into the heart motif on an "I Love New York" apron. He subsequently learns that his wife has acquired some seriously unpleasant habits, most of them stemming from one of those Californian psychic cults. The plot isn't startlingly original, but Jeter relates it in ingenious fashion, teasing the reader with choice titbits of information before going flat out with the sadomasochistic relationships, dead-meat hallucinations, and psychic hide-and-seek in sleazy motels.

Presents for Noel, Carol, Holly, Ivy. (And for Tom, Dick...)



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THEATRE

A stroll round the end of an epoch

Adrian Dannatt on a first world war epic staged in a disused Turin car factory

The mammoth production of *The Last Days of Mankind* — staged in the old Fiat Lingotto factory in Turin — is the Italian theatrical event of the year, possibly even the decade. Everything conspires to make Luca Ronconi's production of Kari Kraus's play a wide-ranging metaphor, connecting with all those areas of contemporary life that good theatre should. Ronconi gives Kraus's sprawling drama of the first world war the room to spread by brilliant use of space and cast.

He deploys the 60 actors and the scenery on parallel sides of a long warehouse, moving them up and down with the audience in between. But this is no conventionally seated audience. The spectators are free to move as they please, listening to a few speeches before strolling on to see what might be happening elsewhere. Ambulatory perception is ideally suited to this play, since Kraus's drama is a major document of that *fin de siècle* Austrian café society, in which the idle observer, the stroller, is an essential player. The dissociation of the intellectual voyeur functions as both symbol and cause of the empire's disintegration.

Some might feel, too, that Turin is the ideal city in which to stage this play, because the same cast society still exists here. The sight of Turin's ostentatiously-furred cultural élite following, quite literally, Kraus's dramatisation of bourgeois downfall, was fascinating in itself. Even more so on the first night, as it was packed with journalists: unconscious *doppelgängers* of the journalists on stage above them. Kraus was a great newspaper man himself, and journalists were much to the fore in every sense in the production, with printing presses rivalling trains as stage motifs.

The irony of using an abandoned Fiat plant to stage a play about the end of the great Western

European tradition was made starkly clear. Ronconi filled the space with old-fashioned machinery, presses, rolling stock, engines, howitzers and even a submarine that emerged out of the top of a train. Just as the old Europe was destroyed by its railways, the war as much their fault as the kaiser's, so the Fiat factory has been destroyed in turn by technology. So the transformation of a car factory into a cultural space (under the able design of Renzo Piano) is perhaps symptomatic of the end of the same process of historical change whose initial effects are portrayed in Kraus's play.

Ronconi has a bitter-sweet reputation in Italy, in some ways equivalent to Kraus's own controversial status in Austria. He is acclaimed by some as the country's only great modern director, but his television production of *Orlando Furioso* in the 1970s caused outrage with its mixture of naturalistic and highly artificial styles and his work continues to be fiercely criticised as over-mechanistic and even clumsy.

Certainly his fondness for movable props and technical tricks, actors who constantly float up and down the central space in a rotating harness from the ceiling, is not far from the crude mechanisms of a Renaissance pageant. And with soldiers, nurses and schoolchildren in their 1914 costumes, shouted news headlines and snatches of dramatic music, the reminiscences of Joan Littlewood's original production of *Oh! What A Lovely War* are sometimes embarrassingly obvious.

After a few hours, it begins to seem just an undifferentiated mass of shouting, hand-acting and lumbering machinery. That Italian fascination with technology leads to one special effect cancelling out the last: an emphasis on the next big moment at the cost of the drama's text and fabric. Yet when the audience begin to trail solemnly behind a horse, or are surrounded by soldiers in the final scene, the point of Ronconi's extravagance is evident, and parallels with our own political climate seem chillingly close.

• *The Last Days of Mankind*, produced by Teatro Stabile, is at Lingotto, Turin until December 20.



Extravagant production: *The Last Days of Mankind* in Turin

MUSIC: SOUTH AFRICA

Time to let the music flow freely?



As the United Nations prepares to examine its cultural boycott of South Africa, David Toop reviews its impact on such performers as Miriam Makeba (left) and Johnny Clegg (right)

As South Africa struggles to free itself from apartheid, the moment comes closer when the measures devised to isolate the country — economic sanctions, and the sports and cultural boycotts — will be lifted. As far as the cultural boycott is concerned, there is no dispute that it has discouraged artistic exchange in all fields. Yet it has also contained within it grey areas and contradictions.

Some actors and film directors have flaunted it with apparently minor repercussions. But the most emotive and hotly disputed area is music, perhaps because it is the field in which black South Africa has the richest resources of its own. Growing worldwide enthusiasm for black African music — leading, of course, to the prospect of considerable commercial success for those who break onto the world stage — has paradoxically only increased tensions over the boycott's consequences.

Nelson Mandela's release focused many of the problems. The initial euphoria reached its musical apex in April, when Nelson and Winnie Mandela appeared at Wembley Stadium as the climax to a celebratory rock concert. After that, mixed feelings of optimism and despair set in, as apartheid crumbled yet South Africa continued to suffer factional violence. That has affected musicians within South Africa, too. Highly politicised, they sense that democracy, an open society and competition will bring fresh difficulties.

The ten-year cultural boycott will be reviewed by the United Nations on February 1. Entertainment unions across Europe and America have upheld it fairly rigorously for the last decade, and the British Musicians Union has been among the strictest enforcers. Indeed, it discouraged musical tours of South Africa even back in the early 1960s. The musical unions, along with individual campaigners like Harry Belafonte in America, have undoubtedly had considerable success in converting musicians to the anti-apartheid cause. Yet the most severe testing of the boycott so far has arisen from two unexpected, seemingly sympathetic sources. Paul Simon's recording of *Graceland* with South African musicians, released in 1986, and the popularity of Savuka, a South African group led by the white anti-apartheid musician Johnny Clegg, have both been the source of conflicts.

Graceland was a project that

seemed to ignore the implications of recording in South Africa. Opinions on Simon's motives became sharply polarised. Many anti-apartheid campaigners spoke out against an inevitable erosion of the boycott's credibility, yet a number of black South African musicians — including the renowned exile, trumpeter Hugh Masekela — took the opposite view. With hindsight, perhaps they were right. The record was one of the most successful of the 1980s, and subsequent tours have undoubtedly given welcome exposure to a number of deserving black musicians, as well as generating debate on the subject of apartheid. In this instance, dubious means (judged by the strict letter of the boycott) seem justified by the end.

The now famous case of Clegg presents an equally murky challenge to the apparently simple edicts of the boycott. Born in Rochdale, Clegg settled in South Africa when he was six years old and has since become a vocal, and therefore persecuted, opponent of apartheid. Supported by the ANC, and an active member of the South African Musicians Alliance, he would seem to merit the same acceptance in Britain as visiting black groups from South Africa such as The Soul Brothers or Ladysmith Black Mambazo. He has, however, been consistently obstructed by the British MU, who reasoned that no musician could choose to work in both Britain and South Africa and remain a member of the MU. Why this should have been applied to Clegg and not also to his musical comrades in the mass democratic movement remains unclear.

The controversy over Clegg effectively placed him in a worse position than those artists, including Queen, Frank Sinatra, George Benson, Rod Stewart and Elton John, who have defied international feeling and their union directives in the past and played concerts at the Bophuthatswana resort of Sun City. Most of these musicians have since shown remorse, yet the sort of artist lured to Sun City by huge fees has tended to be either too popular or too desperate to be disturbed by punitive measures. In some cases, only a negative reaction from fans has been enough to create a troubled conscience.

For the British MU, the situation is still clear-cut. According to its general secretary Dennis Scard: "You either have a boycott or you don't. There is no point in having a partial one. The cornerstones of



Leader of the African band: Johnny Clegg, barred from the British MU because of his South African ties

apartheid are still there. When they go, that may well be the time the ANC would say to us: 'we think we've now got a multi-racial society.' My own view is that the boycott has helped South Africa to get where it is now. If we lift the boycott, would that then legitimise everything there is now and stop movement?"

Within South Africa, many

musicians and activists are now

engaged in the difficult process of

'You either have a boycott or you don't. There is no point in having a partial one'

establishing a musical union which will unite and protect South Africans of all factions when the structure of apartheid is finally dismantled. Included among them are Darius and Kathy Bruback, Darius, son of the jazz pianist, Dave Bruback, initiated the first South African jazz studies course at Natal University, Durban, in 1983; both he and Kathy have become known as activists within

South African music and education.

In London last week, they approached the British MU for exploratory discussions of the cultural boycott. "There is some feeling now that it's a matter of time before the boycott is lifted," said Darius. "This meeting was to gather information — a kind of notice of intention to join the world artistic community when the government changes significantly — and to do it in a regularised fashion, so that, to take an analogy from sports, it's not just a question of rebel tours."

Another issue forcing urgent

review of the boycott is the staging of exile concerts in South Africa. Kathy Bruback recently organised a solo piano concert by Abdullah Ibrahim, an exile since 1962, at the City Hall in Durban. "He returned as an artistic hero," she said. The late Chris McGregor also performed in South Africa in recent years, and there are hopes of a triumphant return for all the South African exiles, including such outspoken critics of apartheid as singer Miriam Makeba and Hugh Masekela. The tragedy is that musicians like McGregor, Johannie Dyani, Mongezi Feza, Dudu Pukwana and Harry Miller are no longer alive to witness the decline of apartheid.

Visits from exiles have led to

emotionally charged perfor-

mances, but South African musicians are apprehensive: a trickle of homecoming concerts by exiles may turn into a flood of European and American visitors, once their isolation is ended and South Africa returns to the global tour circuit. South Africa's dynamic musical culture will act as a magnet for foreign musicians; the feeling among local players is that only a national union can protect their interests. Many hopes lie with Johannesburg's SAMSA, the South African Musicians Alliance, which is currently engaged in talks with the established SAMU (South African Musicians Union), an organisation which originally served mainly white orchestral musicians.

These are fragments that are searching for unification. The urgent necessity of coming to terms with free movement and a free market, after so many years of isolation, will inevitably cause problems comparable to those currently being experienced by musicians in eastern Europe. As for a boycott, if it can no longer be enforced or even understood, then surely it must be revised or abandoned. A decade of enforcement has heightened public awareness of the iniquities of apartheid; now the confusions of the boycott appear to be resolvable only by the resolution of South Africa's greater problems.

TELEVISION Response less than instant

AS I come close to the end of an enjoyable, if somewhat mind-bending, year monitoring television for these columns, I might perhaps be allowed the general reflection that pre-packaging has a lot to answer for. Television can still jump when a major news story breaks, but for arts and features the time-lag from concept to screen is getting longer. Once again, new technology has slowed everything down.

Twenty years ago, we would settle on a *Late Night Line Up* subject for BBC 2 each night somewhere around the late afternoon. The corresponding *Last Show* (BBC 2) now often requires days, even weeks, to react to a topical event, presumably because producers want their reaction to look as polished as possible. A couple of talking heads and a caption or two are no longer thought sufficient to keep even late-night viewing figures up to required minority targets.

Consider, too, last night's *Without Walls* (Channel 4), given over to the usually admirable arts monthly "For Love or Money". Its items included a seasonal look at special-offer advertisements for what are known in the trade as "collectables" and usually consist of plates sold in limited editions to which the only limit is the number of impressionable people likely to buy them. The programme also had the story of a man in Romania using priceless works of art as a ransom to free his family, and a feature on tribal sculpture which included the revelation that whereas naked women still sell well in effigy, similarly naked men are reckoned less

attractive to purchasers. So far so good, but any of those items could have been shot a month ago, and some probably were. Of the two big arts stories of the week — the death of Armand Hammer and the sudden collapse of the Christie's and Sotheby's auctions, where less than a third of the works on offer were sold — there was no mention. Somewhere between news headlines and elaborately-made features, some good arts stories are disappearing down the cracks in the canvas.

Timewatch (BBC 2) has the advantage of historical perspective, and has regularly been coming up with a series of carefully considered and intelligently reconstructed documentaries. Last night it considered Livingstone in Africa, not, for once, the presumed David but his distant cousin William, a planter who ended up with his head on a pole in a nearby church as the result of a sudden rebellion in what was the British colonial Nyasaland of 1915.

"White man's grave, black man's grave" was the story of two men: Livingstone, the white planter standing for oppression, and John Chilimbe, the black Baptist pastor who called for his killing and then saw his own people massacred in white revenge. But, as usual with *Timewatch*, the story turned out to be not quite so simple: Chilimbe was an American-educated intellectual who shared with Livingstone many of the ideals for a peaceful commercialisation of Africa. Until the violence that ended their lives, both men were united by a dream that was never as basic or as un-

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SHERIDAN MORLEY

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BRIEFING

Fabled skill takes prize

BRITAIN's top prize for illustrators has been won by John Vernon Lord, professor of illustration at Brighton Polytechnic. Lord won the W. H. Smith Illustration Award for his illustrations for *Aesop's Fables*, retold in verse by James Michie. He was presented with £3,000 in a ceremony at the Victoria and Albert Museum, where a small exhibition of the finalists' work will be on show until February 24.

Clutch of cowards

JOAN COLLINS fans who cannot get enough of her in the West End in *Noel Coward's Private Lives* will be delighted to hear that the actress is scheduled to film eight half-hour *Coward* comedies for BBC 1 this spring. The project, provisionally called *Tonight at 8.30*, casts Collins in a variety of roles first played by Gertrude Lawrence, as well as one part, a railway station barmaid, that was the prototype for Celia Johnson's character in the film *Brief Encounter*. Following that, Collins hopes to return to *Coward* on stage, if plans to open *Private Lives* on Broadway next October materialise.



Joan Collins: comedy roles

Following fashion

MARTIN Scorsese would not be an obvious candidate for the title of world's best-dressed film director. Nevertheless, the abrasive creator of *Taxi Driver* and *GoodFellas* has turned his talents to a 26-minute documentary, *Made in Milan*, singing the praises of the fashion designer Giorgio Armani.

The film, currently touring the States as part of the exhibition "Images of Man", follows Armani as he goes about his business, supervising his latest creations. There are no plans at the moment for any British screenings. Scorsese, meanwhile, has just begun shooting his next feature, *Cape Fear*, a remake of the 1962 suspense thriller, starring Robert de Niro, Nick Nolte and Jessica Lange.

Last chance . . .

THE choreographer Kim Brandstrup evoked the style of Baroque opera in his retelling of the Orpheus and Euridice legend for London Contemporary Dance Theatre. This one-act Olivier-Award winner, with its strong narrative and elegant design, has proved to be one of the most popular items in the company's repertoire. It features in a mixed programme which includes Paul Taylor's witty satire on social behaviour, *Cloven Kingdom*. LCDT's season ends on Saturday at the Bristol Hippodrome (0272 299444).

CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

Under attack from Emptiness

Geoff Brown reviews *Neverending Story, Part II, Miami Blues, Heavy Petting, Captain America and Three Sisters*

Clear the decks: here come Rock Biter, Mudwart, Falkor the flying dragon, Smeg, Lavanda and Nimby the Bird. There are humans, too, in *The Neverending Story, Part II* (U, Warner West End), though they appear pale shadows compared to this freakish menagerie. This sequel to the 1984 hit returns to Michael Ende's best-selling fantasy novel for inspiration. Here is Bastian Bux again, a motherless schoolboy beset with domestic difficulties: he quails before the high dive at school, while father is preoccupied and prossic. To gird his loins, Bastian turns the pages of the magical book which shares the film's title. "We need your help," cries the child-like Empress from an illustration, "come back to *Fantasia*!" Enter the menagerie.

This is a film that takes some swallowing. The level of technical achievement is high: if you want a crystalline city, a giant carved from anthropomorphic rock, or castles and towers shooting out of every child's dream science-fiction landscape, here you can sup. Yet the narrative underneath these elaborate effects seems stuck in the rut of the original film: where *Fantasia* was threatened by a consuming force called the Nothing, the land is now under attack from the Emptiness. Spot the difference.

Clara's Burt supplies sultry venom as the villain Xayide, stalking Bastian in angular dress, fleshed out the shambling Mosby with droll humour. Alec Baldwin is genuinely unnerving as Junior, careering through Miami like a loose cannon, leaving in his wake chopped fingers, severed eyebrows, and a dead Hare Krishna. Best of all, Jennifer Jason Leigh vaults over the stereotype of the innocent call-girl, and makes Junior's friend Susie a living individual, wistfully dreaming of white picket fences and recipes.

Obit Benz's Heavy Petting (ICA, Cinema) opens a tarty can of worms: American sex education films. The style of investigation is akin to *The Atomic Cafe*, whose co-director Pierce Rafferty contributed to the film in the early stages. Clips from instructional shorts, plus forgotten features

of George Miller. The impish Miller of *Mad Max* and *The Witches of Eastwick* could never have looked this film's script straight in the eye.

American film-makers are suddenly rediscovering the nation's back catalogue of quirky thrillers. Last week, *The Hot Spot* resurrected a Charles Williams novel; now, *Miami Blues* (18, Cannon Paston Street) presents the first of Charles Willeford's tales about Holt Mosby, Miami cop. This is far from the glossy world of *Miami Vice*. Mosby ekes out his life in a seedy hotel, constantly playing with badly-fitting dentures, which are stolen (along with his gun, badge and pride) by a lethal ex-con on a mugging spree.

Miami Blues is the product of two alumni from the Roger Corman exploitation factory. The writer-director is George Armitage, who launched his raffish career with *Private Duty Nurses*; the producer is Jonathan Demme, gifted director of *Married to the Mob* and practised hand at offbeat crime. Their script could have benefited from extra narrative twists once the characters have been wound up and set in motion, there is nothing for them to do except wind down. Yet when the entertainment is mounted with such mischievous glee, who wants to complain?

There are three delicious performances. Fred Ward, who first optioned Willeford's novel for the screen, fleshed out the shambling Mosby with droll humour. Alec Baldwin is genuinely unnerving as Junior, careering through Miami like a loose cannon, leaving in his wake chopped fingers, severed eyebrows, and a dead Hare Krishna. Best of all, Jennifer Jason Leigh vaults over the stereotype of the innocent call-girl, and makes Junior's friend Susie a living individual, wistfully dreaming of white picket fences and recipes.

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Returning to fantasy: Bastian (Jonathan Brandis) meets Nimby the Bird (Martin Umbach) in *The Neverending Story, Part II*

such as *High School Hellcats*, are neatly collated, and presented straight, without any rib-ticking commentary.

One honey-voiced instructor murmurs: "Don't do a don't, do do a do." This dainty tone is everywhere: one teenage couple, painfully undertaking the mating dance, discover their mutual interests lead to bicycle trips and miniature golf. Other clips pursue the bellringer method. A crusty gent, in lurid colour, shows us the ultimate horror: a newsagent's rack of girly magazines, eyes and breasts tastefully shielded by strips of red tape.

Weaving through the crazy tapestry are snippets of sexual autobiography from 23 people — mostly cult media names. Not all of these add to the fun: some witnesses, notably William Burroughs, seem positively tongue-

tied. But the 80 minutes fly by happily enough, beguiling the viewer with grotesque tales of a nation's fear, naivety and dogged sincerity when faced with the birds and the bees.

Captain America (15, regional release only) dives into the Marvel Comics storehouse for inspiration. In the original comic-strip, this Superman clone went to bat against Axis forces, armed with a shield and the colours of Old Glory. For the film, set mostly in the present, the Captain is also equipped with a blonde bimbo sidekick; while his adversary, the Red Skull (malevolent creation of Hitler's scientists), is planning to

attack the brain of the American president.

Director Albert Pyun and his scriptwriter seem to have succumbed to St Vitus's dance: the story lurches breathlessly from setting to setting, before lumping exhausted towards a preposterous

finale filmed at a Yugoslav coastal fort. Matt Salinger's super-hero remains a tedious hunk, but Scott Paulin at least gives a wicked spark to Red Skull, dressed to kill in black suit and lobster-pink skin. This crass hokum is being kept a safe distance from West End moviegoers; the Odeon Barkings is the closest venue.

The one new release flying the flag of *Art is Three Sisters* (12, Cannon Swiss Centre), a playful variation on Chekhov's play from the doughty Margarete von Trotta. Ten years ago, von Trotta offered both meaty substance and visual excitement. Since then, a glacial solemnity has crept over the good lady, and in *Three Sisters* (dating from 1988), neither Chekhov nor three striking actresses can do anything to revive her condition.

The setting is the Italian university town of Pavia in the 1980s.

Olga, Masha and Irina have been transmuted into Fanny Ardant, an academic, Greta Scacchi, a lost soul married to a television comedian, and Valeria Golino, a medical student with her life and hopes still before her. The garrison forces who prompt Chekhov's turmoil are replaced, more or less, by a physics professor who stirs the sisters' sleeping hearts. Out of Chekhov's twigs, von Trotta strives to build her own nest of themes: the world's gloomy future, as well as the need for people — women especially — to keep in touch with their feelings and memories.

The three star turns provide passing pleasures. But the drama is dragged down by its shifting focus (the characters refuse to knit together), and the abiding air of refined torpor. Autumn mists, ponderous thoughts, exquisite suffering: this film needs a good kick in the pants.



Fragment of reality: "El Morocco" 1955 by Garry Winogrand

The American photographer Garry Winogrand had something of a scattergun approach. When he died in 1984 he left behind 2,500 rolls of 35mm film which had been exposed but not developed and 6,500 rolls which had been developed but not contacted. At a conservative guess, he left three million exposures.

Winogrand seems not to have had a clear notion of what it was he was searching for, other than a fragment of reality which articulated the anxiety of the American dream gone sour. He was a typical example of the new breed of documentary photographer working in America during the 1950s and 1960s, for which life in the city was all-absorbing.

During his final years in California, he would cruise the streets, snapping from the window of his moving car, picking at the chaotic kaleidoscope of life. He photographed politicians, people in cars, people walking fast, brushing by the photographer as though he were

a social outcast. Certain places lured him: the zoo, the rodeo, the airport. Areas of transit were of particular interest, with people continually moving, through shadows, through light. His cameras was a visual notebook, with urban Americans portrayed as brash hustlers of the streets.

He liked to move in close and, with a wide angle lens fixed to his camera, photograph at arm's length. At times such an approach inevitably reduced both architecture and environment to crazy disjoined angles, yet even this somehow suggested the anxieties and the complexities of urban existence. His contribution to

photography is best seen when his pictures are exhibited in blocks rather than individually, and especially when mounted, as here, with his contact sheets enlarged to giant proportions.

A generation younger than Winogrand and a fan of the older American was the British photographer, Tony Ray-Jones, who died in 1972 at the age of 30. His best work, "A Day Off: An English Journal" was published posthumously in book form in 1974 and documents, with amazing vivacity, ordinary English people enjoying their leisure. His pictures, with their taut composition and structure, are about many things: social

relationships, body language, and the strange customs that we all pursue. In comparison to Winogrand's self-induced panic and tension, Ray-Jones' work is marked with calm and reflection.

Inspired by Robert Frank's great chronicle of the United States in the late Fifties, *The Americans*, Ray-Jones decided to work on a similar project: a document of the English at play. He wanted to capture the eccentricities of a way of life that, in his view, was on the verge of becoming Americanised. Travelling across the country from Cleethorpes to Cornwall, and from Olymdebourne to Hull, he observed with wit and warm sympathy a whole panorama of leisure pursuits, from the parochial to the grandiose.

• Garry Winogrand: *Pigment of the Real World* is at the Hayward Gallery (071-928 3144) until February 3; Tony Ray-Jones: A Retrospective is at the Photographers' Gallery (071-831 1772) until January 26

SOVIET FILM

Politician framed by poet

Yelevtushenko's second and latest film, *Stalin's Funeral*, is billed as the portrait of a generation, an explanation of how and why he and his contemporaries, including the 59-year-old Mikhail Gorbachev, are what they are, and believe what they believe. But the poet's autobiographical search for the origins of glasnost and perestroika is a universal Soviet experience (the last days of Stalin and the emotions stirred by his death) founders on trite generalities and, dare it be said, on Yevtushenko's own ego.

There are some visual high points in the film — a joint venture between the Soviet state company Mosfilm and the British company CTS. Many occur in the central sequence, a reconstruction of the stampede which marred the first day of Stalin's lying in state. An estimated 250 people (there are no official figures) were trampled to death on and around Trubnaya square in central Moscow, when police failed to control crowds rushing to pay their last respects. Yevtushenko, who was there, justified himself that no archive film of the tragedy survived, and masterminded a reconstruction from his memory.

Even here, however, in scenes which could be so personal, much seems derivative. A borrowing from Eisenstein here, something

else much to the contrast they experienced in their formative years between Stalin's purges and Krushchev's thaw is now a truism.

Much is also known about Yevtushenko, the brash but politically bold voice of the 1960s. The Soviet public knows enough about Stalin's universal appeal not to need the ponderous image of a peasant boot and a worker's boot, planted side by side in a flower pot after the stampede.

A legitimate question is whether Soviet audiences cut off from the cultural mainstream for nearly half a century, will be more charitable in their view of *Stalin's Funeral*. For them, perhaps, the plight of the small individual caught up in high politics, the visual allusions to Charlie Chaplin and the verbal allusions to Mayakovsky, plus the tribulations of the young Yevtushenko, may seem fresher.

The first-night audience in Moscow, however, seemed less than impressed, even though Denis Konstantinov, an untried actor who played the young Yevtushenko, made a convincing debut. Many were simply confused by the bitty juxtaposition of locations and times. Others wanted more about Stalin and less about Yevtushenko.

At an after-show press conference, a retired Moscow engineer irritated the poet by challenging his representation of the stampede. He, too, was there and claimed that it "looked" quite different. As a poet, Yevtushenko could have claimed that he wanted to portray how it felt, not looked.

That he did not may point to the film's chief failing. What could have been a tour de force of conflicting emotions and a valuable historical statement became instead an intellectual pastiche.

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Family puts on a brave face

THEATRE
Three Sisters
Queen's

THIS is the most interestingly odd of the family reunions that have recently been occurring on the London stage. Nobody has seriously suggested that the Oliviers or the Cusack's were ill-suited to the roles given them in, respectively, *Time and the Conways* and *Three Sisters*. Yet Robert Sturua's energetic revival of the same Chekhov play casts Vanessa Redgrave, a born Masha, as the huffy Olga, and Lynn Redgrave, a born Olga, as the passionate, outgoing Masha. Moreover, a quarter of a century separates them from their niece, Jemma, suggesting that her Irena is not just the youngest of the three sisters, but an accidental afterthought on their parents' part.

Still, casting against expectation can be rewarding and so it often proves here. Lynn, in particular, scores a substantial success by flouting theatrical tradition and conventional romance. Her Masha is less outgoing than ingoing, a whey-faced alcoholic who trudges across the stage, exuding grumpy self-absorption; a natural cactus who surprises herself by putting out tentative blooms in response to a beguiling man.

This is a brave performance. Everything about her and her circumstances is unglamorous. First, she is the victim of a

domestic despot in the form of Michael Carter, a Kulygin who asserts conjugal authority by grabbing cigarettes from her mouth and drinks from her hand. Next, she falls prey to a callous, opportunistic lover in Stuart Wilson's Vershinin. There is nothing visionary about his philosophising; it is partly a game, partly an expression of personal bitterness, partly a way of distracting others while he makes advances to poor, charmless Masha. It all ends badly, with her prepared for a grand goodbye or even an elopement, only to be snubbed by a man for whom it was only a passing affair.

Not for nothing is Sturua's artistic director of Soviet Georgia's Rustaveli Theatre, a troupe known for the unexpected, particularly the physically unexpected. His cast is never still for a moment. People push and pull at each other. Whispers become shouts. Temps flare and as suddenly burn out. Olga and Irena grab the moody Masha by a foot and drag her across the room, tickling and prodding at her. There is much kissing, some slapping of faces.

There is purpose to all this volatility. It signals a feeliness, at times of hope and happiness, finally of disillusion and anger. But the all-British cast does sometimes look as if it is determinedly following the instructions of a director hell-bent on trivialising it. Hence a certain strenuousness in some performances, including Jemma's Irena, though her efforts to laugh through her rage and rage

after all the waiting, the Camden Town venue is finally running and should emerge as a strong alternative to Ronnie Scott's. The programme for the coming weeks, which includes Ahmad Jamal, Sam Rivers and Ivo Papasov, certainly looks impressive. While it may take time to win over the traditional mid-and-bitter jazz fan, the Cafe seems likely to build on the fashion-conscious young set that crowded into the original premises in Newington Green.

Booking David Murray for the first two nights was obviously a statement of intent. Though he is no longer on the very margins of the avant-garde, the American reeds player could hardly be described as a mainstream figure. He is certainly not the kind of jazz musician whose music could be treated as mere background music for business parties. Every note,



Three Redgraves: Lynn, left, Vanessa and Jemma, behind

through her laughter are impressively bold.

That is not, however, an objection that can be levelled at Phoebe Nicholls's Natasha, a butterfly with steel feelers, or her husband, Jeremy Northam's Andrei, doomed to be infatuated with a woman for whom he feels intellectual disgust. Still less is it true of Vanessa's Olga, a

marvellously unselfish study of someone with the emotional munificence to suppress both her longings and a natural playfulness for the benefit of those she loves. When she and Lynn are onstage together, the rapport is unmissable – and in itself the evening's justification.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

every alitissimo shriek, pins the listener back against the wall.

Murray was in London recently, leading his Octet on a Contemporary Music Network tour. For this latest visit he had stripped the band down to the minimum, and was accompanied only by his compatriot, the percussionist Kahl El-Zabar.

To his followers, of course, Murray can do no wrong. The concert by the Octet – a middling performance at best – was greeted with extravagant applause. Much the same occurred at the Jazz Cafe, though the hour-long first set rarely overcame the standard limitations of the drums and saxophone duet.

The opening barrage, built around a boppish theme, gave El-Zabar the opening for a murderous assault on his drum set. After that Murray switched to

a more conciliatory mood. Floating above the gentle three-note chime of a thumb-piano, he etched out a spare, haunting solo which was far more eloquent than the earlier cascade of notes El-Zabar's muted chanting augmented the vaguely Moorish atmosphere.

The remainder of the performance found the players going over the same ground. This was once fresh territory in the Sixties. Now, there is a sense of *déjà vu*, even with a player as formidable as Murray. El-Zabar, moreover, sounds almost one-dimensional compared to the likes of Nana Vasconcelos or Trilok Gurtu. As the epic drum and chime solos wound their way towards a conclusion, even the Murray groups could not help looking a trifle impatient.

CLIVE DAVIS

scores. Mozart's *Thamos* music and Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé*, were written for the theatre. Or perhaps the link Rattle had in mind was the chance in both works to show off the CBSO Chorus, who for the Mozart mustered far more voices than could ever have appeared on any 18th-century stage, but whose singing was delicate, fresh and immediate, contributing a lot to a performance that managed to be monumental and lively at the same time. Then in the Ravel, despite a moment or two of bony intonation in the unaccompanied section, they produced beautifully clear and varied colours.

There were some rough edges here too in the orchestral playing, but even so, there was much more to admire. This is a score whose gorgeness finds a ready response in Rattle and his orchestra, and they get away with their juicy moments outrageously, but marvellously, by inserting them into longer lines; there is a kind of aural deception and sorcery here worthy of the composer. The strings had a sain finish, and once again showed they can reach pianissimo untouched by other orchestras. It was also good to hear the double-bass glissandos making their mark, while the woodwinds produced a beautiful blend.

The Mozart is not a piece in

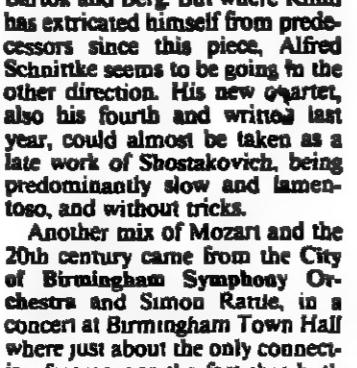
which the principals have much to do: writing for a play touched by the new science of archaeology in its ancient Egyptian setting, Mozart provided a sequence of entrées and three massive choruses with duet and quartet verses. But Amanda Roocroft shone in her moment of sustained flight, strangely set against martial music. John Graham Hall was characteristically and aptly youthful, and Henry Herford was lyrical in the High Priest's role.

The emphasis throughout the performance on a young, spontaneous sound was right, and perhaps revealed how much Rattle has been able to bring to the CBSO from his work with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. *Thamos* contains astonishing pre-echoes of *The Magic Flute* (not only in the Egyptian motif but musically where the first chorus appears to quote the pean to Sarastro) and of *Don Giovanni* (where the High Priest steps into the shadow thrown by the Commanders arriving at Giovanni's supper table). Mozart completed this music, however, at the age of 23, with those operas far in the future. And as this performance showed, it is also, unlike the flute quartets perhaps, from start to end the real thing.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

MOZART and the moderns: no doubt we will be getting many more such conjunctions next year, throwing sparks between the 18th century and our own. Last Sunday, though, the Alban Berg Quartet seemed to have programmed Mozart more as an interlude between their two big contemporary works, inviting Aurèle Nicolet to join them in the C major and D major flute quartets – works which, as the programme note rather oddly if honestly admitted, are not unreliably great, and which, in the case of the piece in C, may not even be authentic. Nicolet's playing was cool and level, as the writing generally is; only in the slow movement of the D major quartet did those qualities have the chance to be touched with grace.

The new pieces, both commissioned by the Alban Bergs, reminded us that this is one of the very few non-specialist quartets plugged into the musical present. Wolfgang Rihm's Fourth Quartet (1980-81) is less interesting and individual than his more recent music, many of his pathways here



Schnittke: shades of Shostakovich
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Another mix of Mozart and the 20th century came from the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Simon Rattle, in a concert at Birmingham Town Hall where just about the only connecting feature was the fact that both

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Alban Berg Quartet
Queen Elizabeth Hall

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NEW RELEASES

DEATH WARRANT (1989) Action video long ago Claude Berri became an international star. Director Berri's new film, *Death Warrant*, is set in Paris and stars Jeanne Moreau as a widow who wants revenge on her husband's killer. *Death Warrant* is directed by Claude Berri and stars Jeanne Moreau.

THE LITTLE MERMAID (1989) Disney's much-awaited version of Hans Christian Andersen's famous story is now available on VHS tape. *The Little Mermaid* is directed by Ron Clements and John Musker and stars Linda Larkin as Ariel, the little mermaid.

LOVE HURTS (1989) A romantic comedy starring Demi Moore and Bruce Boxleitner. *Love Hurts* is directed by Michael Tolkin and stars Demi Moore and Bruce Boxleitner.

THE COMFORT OF STRANGERS (1989) Robert De Niro and Isabella Rossellini star in this drama directed by Stephen Frears. *The Comfort of Strangers* is directed by Stephen Frears and stars Robert De Niro and Is

BBC 1

8.00 Ceefax
8.30 BBC Breakfast News with Laurie Meyer and Nicholas Witchell
8.55 Daytime UK presented by Adrian Miles in Manchester and Alan Titchmarsh
9.00 News, regional news and weather quiz hosted by Andy Craig 9.25 Dish of the Day. Culinary advice from Rosemary Moseley
9.30 People Today. Three expectant mothers talk about their hopes for themselves and their babies
10.00 News, regional news and weather 10.05 News, children's BBC, presented by Simon Pure, begins with Playdays (10.12.25 Barney. Cartoon adventures of a dog (10.13.25 People Today. Daily life magazine series)
11.00 News, regional news and weather 11.05 Kirby. Robert Kirby-Silk chairs a studio discussion on model-age sex 11.45 Before Noon. Phone-in with Adrian Miles and Rose Phillips, and today's *Brave New World* quiz
12.00 News, regional news and weather 12.05 Rosemary Conley's Diet and Fitness Club. Includes a visit from the *Radio Times* doctor, Barry Lynch 12.20 Scams Today. Judi Spiers and Alan Titchmarsh present live entertainment from Pebble Mill 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Weather
1.20 Neighbours. (Ceefax) 1.50 Going for Gold. Henry Kelly hosts the Euro-quizz

BBC 2

8.00 News
8.15 Westminster. A round-up of yesterday's parliamentary proceedings
9.00 Film: Alexander The Great (1955). Intense biopic about the Macedonian general who was promised a short life but achieved glory. Richard Burton stars as Alexander, with Claire Bloom, Peter Cushing and Michael Hordern in the other leading roles. Directed by Robert Rossen
11.10 After Hours includes an interview with Lynda Jackson
11.25 The Invincible Man. Stop When the Red Lights Flash. Daniel is caught in a speed trap (r)
12.10 Impressions. The town's archivist, Len Weaver, recalls the history of the Essex port of Harwich (r)
12.25 The Must Connection. Documentary about a fabbed substance that comes from a rare Himalayan deer (r). (Ceefax)
1.20 PC Pinkerton (r) 1.25 Firemen Sam (r)
1.35 Curry on Ice. The final programme in skater John Curry's masterpiece (r)
2.00 News and weather followed by The Making of a Continent: The Rich, High Desert. The second of three programmes about the landscape of North America (r)
3.00 News and weather followed by Westminster Live. Vivian White introduces prime minister's question time 3.50 News, regional news and weather
4.00 Catchword hosted by Paul Cola
4.30 Behind the Headlines. Two political issues are debated by Paul Boateng and Jeffrey Archer
5.00 Play Snooker. Final part of snooker icon Dennis Taylor's tuition series (r)
5.30 Clean State. Education magazine. This week: language schools in Britain — are foreign students getting a raw deal?

ITV VARIATIONS

ANGRIA
As London except: 6.25pm-7.00 Angie News 10.40 Just the Job 11.10 Wideweb 11.20-1.00am The New Avengers 12.00 The Real Thing. Throwing Stars 12.30 3.30 Flax Star 4.30-6.00 Jack Thompson Down Under
BORDER
As London except: 1.50pm Sons and Daughters 2.20-3.15 TV Weekly 5.10-6.40 Horns and Axes 6.00 Lockdown 7.00-8.00 7.30-8.00 Blockbusters 10.40-11.10 7th Heaven 11.10 1st Night 11.40 Snooker 1.00pm Video Watch 1.20 New Avengers 2.35 Top Ten 3.35 News 4.45 World Cup Hat of Fame 4.50-5.00 Joltline
CENTRAL
As London except: 8.00pm Home and Away 8.25-9.00 Central News 10.40 Central Lobby 11.10 1st Night 11.40 Snooker 1.00pm Video Watch 1.20 New Avengers 2.35 Top Ten 3.35 News 4.45 World Cup Hat of Fame 4.50-5.00 Joltline
HTV WEST
As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 The Young Doctors 3.25-3.55 Sons and Daughters 4.15-4.40 Home and Away 5.00 HTV News 5.30-6.00 The Big Picture 6.30-7.00 The Good Neighbor Show 10.40-11.10 The West This Week 12.30am Film: A Cold Night 1.35 The Highnesses 3.25-3.55 Cost Night 3.25 Viva 3.55 The Concert 4.30-5.00 Joltline
ITV WALES
As HTV West except: 6.00-6.30pm Wales at Six 7.30-8.00 Wales and Westcountry 10.40-11.10 Music from the Harp
TSW
As London except: 3.25pm-5.00 Home and Away 5.10-5.40 Tales from High Road 6.00-7.00 The Big Picture 7.30-8.00 8.30-9.00 10.45-11.10 The Last 12.30am Film: Allo Allo! 2.15 Blackstock 2.25 Video View 3.05 Top Ten 3.35 Night Beat 4.25
YORKSHIRE
As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 The Young Doctors 3.25-3.55 Sons and Daughters 4.15-4.40 Home and Away 5.00 HTV News 5.30-6.00 The Big Picture 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 7.30-8.00 Central News 8.30-9.00 10.45-11.10 The Last 12.30am Film: The Joker is Wild 2.20 American's Top Ten 3.20 Cinema 3.30 Music Box 4.30-5.00 Joltline
TVS
As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 The Young Doctors 3.25-3.55 Sons and Daughters 4.15-4.40 Home and Away 5.00 HTV News 5.30-6.00 The Big Picture 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 7.30-8.00 Central News 8.30-9.00 10.45-11.10 The Last 12.30am Film: The Joker is Wild 2.20 American's Top Ten 3.20 Cinema 3.30 Music Box 4.30-5.00 Joltline

GRANADA
As London except: 6.25pm-7.00 Granada 7.30-8.00 Eye. The England 10.40-11.10 1st Eye 11.40 Snooker 1.00pm Video Watch 1.20 New Avengers 2.35 Top Ten 3.35 Night Beat 4.45

RADIO 3

7.00 Weather and News Headlines
7.00 Morning Concert: Britten (Simple Symphony, Op 4; ECO under Britten); Schumann (Fantasiestücke, Op 7; Gerhard Peiper, director; Gwyneth Pwy, piano)
7.30 News
7.25 Morning Concert (cont): Brahms (Variations on a Theme by Schumann, Op 9; George Fritsch, piano); Wagner (Overture "Blezz"; LPO under Boult); Scarlatti (Sonatas, K 127, K 466; Vladimir Horowitz, piano); Hahn (Le Bal de Beaune d'Ete; New London Orchestra under Ronald Corp)
8.35 Composers of the Week: Martinu. Serenade (dedicated to Albert Roussel); Prague CO under Oldrich Vlcek; Smetana (Intermezzo No 1; Leo Ritter, piano); Rudolf Firkušný, piano; Concerto for piano trio and strings; Dvořák CO under Neumann with the New Prague Trio; Lang: "Tre ricercari"; Czech PO under Tuhovský; Toccata "Toccata e danza"; Prague CO; Overture; Czech PO under Břetislav)
9.35 Morning Sequence: Bartók (Rhapsody No 1; Gyula Stalter, violin, Eva Nemeth, piano); Mihály Rózsa (Hungarian Round Dance; Capriccio for chamber instruments; Pet Nemes); Glória (Romance for violin and piano); Tihanyi (Francesca di Rimini; Berlin PO under Ozawa); Tchaikovsky (Arabesque and Elegie for violin and piano); Prokofiev (Suite: Love for Three Oranges; LSO under Mennier); Auer (Reverie for violin and piano); Chopin (Scherzo in C sharp minor; Op 4; Artur Rubinstein, piano); Shostakovich (Overture, Op 131; Gathering SO under János Károlyi; Khatchaturian (Waltz; Massageta for violin and piano); Dvořák (Slavic Dance, Op 46 No 1; Bavarian RSO under Kubelík)
11.25 Concert in Lancaster: The BBC Philharmonic Orchestra under Patrick Thomas with Raphael Oleg, violin, performs Mendelssohn's Symphony No 3 "A Midsummer's Night's Dream" (Violin Concerto No 1 in D; David Peacock, Variations)
1.00 News
1.25 Birmingham Lunchtime Concert: Margaret Fingerthum, piano, performs Mozart

2.25 Film: Yellow Canary (1944, b/w). Tepid second world war thriller starring Anna Neagle in an unusual role as a socialist who saves Canada. But becomes involved in a plot to sabotage a British convoy. With Richard Greene and Albert Lieven. Directed by Herbert Wilcox
3.50 The Brothels. Almehad series 4.05 Popeye and Son. Cartoon 4.30 Maid Marian and Her Merry Men. Award-winning alternative comedy for children with Maid Marian (Kate Lonsinger) leading her merry band, including Robin the wimp, against the wicked Sheriff of Nottingham (Tony Robinson)
4.55 Newround 5.05 Blue Peter with the test on the Romanian children appeal. (Ceefax)
5.25 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax). Northern Ireland: Sport: Saturday 5.40 Inside Ulster 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Weather
6.30 Regional News Magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Top of the Pops introduced by Simon Mayo (simultaneous broadcast with Radio 1)
7.30 Express. Unrelenting inner-city soap. (Ceefax)
8.00 Tomorrow's World. Cross-country skiing in Milton Keynes seems an unlikely mission for Peter Macrae, while Howard Stabeloff reports on an orange problem in South East Asia. Scientists in Corsica may have the answer
8.30 Birds of a Feather. Final episode in the quirky comedy about the two sisters

whose husbands are in prison. An antique writing box reveals a secret they would rather never have known about. Starring Pauline Quirke and Linda Robson. (Ceefax). Northern Ireland: Hidden Ground
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. Regional news and weather
9.30 Smith and Jones. More head-to-head dialogue and irreverent sketches from Mel and Griff with impudence and glee about tonight's topics (Ceefax)
10.00 Panorama Special: Guildford — the Umlid Story. John Ware reports on the role of the police and lawyers in the case of the Guildford Four, which became one of the worst injustices in British legal history.
11.00 Show Jumping. The annual equestrian Christmas party at London's Olympia is here again with the Christmas Turkey Stakes in aid of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. Introduced by David Vane with commentary from Raymond Brooks-Ward and Stephen Hadley
11.30 Tennis. Highlights from today's play in the riches event in International tennis — the Compiegne Grand Slam Cup — in which the 16 men players with the best records in this year's grand slam champion battle for the winner's prize of \$2 million. The competition at Marnay's Olympiade du Domaine and Megeve (r)
12.40am Cricket: England v New Zealand. Highlights of England's third one-day international against New Zealand in the World Series Cup at Sydney cricket ground, introduced by Richie Benaud 1.20 Weather

1.00 TV-am
9.25 Keynotes. Music quiz 9.55 Thames News and weather
10.00 The Time ... The Place ... Topical discussion series chaired by Mike Scott
10.40 This Morning. Family magazine programme presented by Richard Medley and Judy Finnigan, with advice from family doctor Chris Steele and beauty expert Liz Earle.
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3.15 News headlines 3.20 Thames News headlines 3.25 The Young Doctors
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4.40 Sea Dragon: The Blood Feud. Continuing the tales of seafarers and ancient Britons. Jethyn uses an old ploy for sanctuary while he waits for his wounds to heal. A novice there tries to persuade him to take up a life of healing, but the blood feud has to be settled
5.10 Blockbusters. Teenage quiz
5.40 News with Fiona Armstrong. Weather
5.55 Thames Help with details of the Salvation Army's appeal for famine

ITV LONDON

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CHANNEL 4

6.00 Sing and Swing. Jazz stars of the Thirties and Fifties in performance
6.20 Business Daily
6.25 The Channel Four Daily
6.30 The Art of Nature. Beautiful images of the natural world against a background of soothing music
6.45 As It Happens. Michael Grotty and his camera crew are with the US Marines in the Gulf
6.50 The Parliament Programme
6.55 Sleater Sleater
7.00 World of Herbs. Essential Oils. Lesley Bremner explores the applications of oils in aromatherapy and talks to a neurologist who believes they may be useful in reducing stress and illnesses (r)
7.10 Strike Me Pink (1990, b/w). Zestful comedy-musical with the pop-eyed Eddie Cantor as a timid tailor who takes over an amusement park and then has to confront a gang of rackets. Co-starring the imperious Ethel Merman, with Sally Eilers and Brian Donlevy. Directed by Norman Taurog
7.20 Round and Round. Czech cartoon about the invention of the wheel
7.30 Fifteen-to-One
7.40 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Husband and wife complain to each other in the studio about lack of discussion in relationships, with expert comment from Dr Deborah Tannen, author of *You Just Don't Understand!*

5.50 The Adventures of Tin Tin. Tin Tin's adventure on the mysterious island draws towards a conclusion (r)
6.00 The Crystal Maze. O'Brien guides contestants through the ingenious adventure game show (r)
7.00 The Channel 4 News with Charles Owen and Zembla Bawali
7.50 Come to Life with Weather<

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- DEGREE RESULTS 30
- LAW 33
- SPORT 34-38

BUSINESS

THURSDAY DECEMBER 13 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

ERF goes £1.36m into the red

ERF (Holdings), the sole wholly-British quoted truck builder, reported a pre-tax loss of £1.36 million for the half-year to end-September. The slide from profits of £3.7 million during the same period last year reflects the severe decline of the UK truck market. ERF sales fell 39.5 per cent to £53.3 million.

An extraordinary net profit of £2 million, from the sale of ERF Plastics to DSM, the Dutch chemicals group, resulted in a post-tax profit of £534,000. The interim dividend is halved to 2p.

Long haul back, page 29

Countryside loses £8.1m

Countryside Properties, the housebuilder and property developer, reported an £8.1 million loss for the year to end-September after £14.3 million of provisions against lower property and land values. Profits last year were £20.3 million.

The board expects a return to profitability and further growth. It is recommending an unchanged final dividend to be paid from reserves. Total dividends were 4.11p per share against 4p last time. Trading profit from the residential division was £7 million against £13.8 million. Commercial division produced trading profits of £3.6 million compared with £11.1 million and property investment contributed £379,000 against £340,000.

Comment, page 29

Compass rises

Compass Group, the contract catering and healthcare company, reported record profits before tax of £29.5 million for the year to end-September, up 17.5 per cent, and earnings of 28.8p a share, up 16.6p. There is a final dividend of 6.9p, making 10.35p (9p) for the year.

Tempus, page 29

Carlton ahead

Carlton Communications, the television services company, has unveiled pre-tax profits up from £11.4 million to £12.1 million in the year to end-September. An 8.5p final dividend makes a total of 14.1p (9.4p). Tempus, page 29

THE POUNDS

US dollar	1.9440 (+0.0035)
German mark	2.8742 (+0.0022)
Exchange index	93.3 (+0.2)

STOCK MARKETS

FT 30 Share	16922 (-13.8)
FT-SE 100	2156.9 (-8.9)
New York Dow Jones	2600.00 (+13.86)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avge	2399.41 (+24.44)
Closing Prices ... Page 31	

Major indices and major changes Page 30

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base	14%
3-month interbank	13% (13.1%)*
3-month bill	13% (13%)*
US: Prime Rate 10%	
Federal Funds 7.9%	
3-month Treasury Bills 6.81-8.79%	
30-year bonds 10.7%-10.7%*	

CURRENCIES

London:	New York
£ 1.9440	£ 1.9440*
£ DM 2.8742	£ DM 1.4787*
£ Swf 2.4572	£ Swf 1.2645*
£ Ffr 7.657	£ Ffr 4.704*
£ Yen 122.22	£ Yen 151.85*
£ Index 93.3	Index 106.5
ECU 9.071170	SDR 0.704576
£ ECU 1.405070	£ SDR 0.850300

GOLD

London Fixing:	AM \$371.90 pm-\$370.90
	close \$371.80-\$372.30 (£191.00-191.50)
New York:	Comex \$371.75-\$372.25*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan)	... \$26.40 bbl (£27.05)
* Denotes latest trading price	

Levitt failed with up to £30m deficit

By ANGELA MACKAY

LIQUIDATORS to the Levitt Group, one of Britain's largest financial services companies, believe the company collapsed with a deficit of shareholders' funds of about £30 million.

The liquidators are sacking about 185 staff this week to curb costs.

Tim Hayward and Phil Wallace, joint liquidators from KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, said Levitt had been receiving only moderate income over the past year but costs had "significantly exceeded" that income, the chairman and biggest shareholder, to put £20 million of his own money into the company.

Mr Levitt's contribution is part of the £30 million deficit. Finsbury, the financial advisers' regulator, had asked Mr Levitt to capitalise the investment rather than continue to treat it as a loan. Mr Levitt refused and according to Mr Hayward, it appears the amount will continue to be treated as a loan.

The remaining £10 million of the deficit was lost at a rate of £2 million a month up to November 30, mainly as costs associated with running the company.

Mr Hayward said the quality of financial information was poor and the most helpful was Marjorie Mowlam, Labour's City spokeswoman.

She claimed insurance policies had been tampered with, and that Mr Levitt was "using profits made from illegal high-risk investment to pay clients for cashed policies which had never existed, and pocketing the surplus".

She alleged Stoy Hayward was aware of these irregularities and that the auditor had some link with Levitt's management "including the possibility that individuals received payments from the Levitt Group for introducing clients to them".

Roger Roberts, spokesman for Stoy Hayward, said the firm knew nothing of either the purported irregularities or a commission system.

A spokeswoman for Finsbury said Levitt had voluntarily sought the aid of liquidators on Friday.

Documents at this stage were prepared by Stoy Hayward, Levitt's auditor, for the five months ended November 30. Stoy Hayward refused to sign off the 1989 accounts and told the company to contact Finsbury.

Mr Levitt is co-operating with the liquidators and voted on Tuesday with the other major shareholders to agree unanimously to a "short notice" liquidation.

Reports at the weekend said most client funds were in jeopardy. It seems, however, that the 18,000 clients boasted by Levitt Group Ltd, the operational subsidiary, used the company mainly as an insurance broker, with a relatively small number investing money for active management.

The liquidators said they had no figure for the sums invested and actively managed by Levitt, but Finsbury sources said it was about £5 million. The company has £20 million debts, excluding amounts owed to Mr Levitt.

Mr Levitt said Levitt customers with insurance policies brokered by the company would probably be safe, although he could not guarantee this. The prospects for other clients are bleak. Levitt had almost no assets and no cash balances, and other investors will only receive something if the company's

other businesses are sold. Mr Wallace, however, said creditors were unlikely to receive anything.

Mr Hayward said Levitt's custom was to take the full commission on a pension contract at the time it was issued, rather than over the life of the contract, and that it was possible in the current economic climate such business might have dried up, causing a cash crisis.

Only three months ago, Levitt was valued at £150 million by several big institutions which took stakes in the company, Legal and General, General Accident, Commercial Union and Chase Manhattan between them own about 20 per cent of Levitt. Mr Levitt owns about 70 per cent and other small investors the remaining 10 per cent.

There are three main strands to Levitt financial services division: insurance broking, pensions and mortgage broking. The company also has a sports and entertainment operation.

The group employs about 340 people. However, 57 are with Levitt Insurance Brokers, which the liquidators hope to sell quickly, possibly to management. Mr Wallace said the offices in New York and Paris would close in addition to the redundancies in Britain.

Stoy Hayward denied allegations made in the Commons by Marjorie Mowlam, Labour's City spokeswoman.

She claimed insurance policies had been tampered with, and that Mr Levitt was "using profits made from illegal high-risk investment to pay clients for cashed policies which had never existed, and pocketing the surplus".

She alleged Stoy Hayward was aware of these irregularities and that the auditor had some link with Levitt's management "including the possibility that individuals received payments from the Levitt Group for introducing clients to them".

Roger Roberts, spokesman for Stoy Hayward, said the firm knew nothing of either the purported irregularities or a commission system.

A spokeswoman for Finsbury said Levitt had voluntarily sought the aid of liquidators on Friday.

He added: "All the company's business are performing well and the results for the full year will be good."

The interim dividend has been raised 248 per cent to 2.6p (0.745p).

He admitted, however, that



Upwardly mobile profits: Sir Ernest Harrison announcing Racal results yesterday

Racal Telecom payout up 248% as profit soars

By MATTHEW BOND

RACAL Telecom, the larger of the two mobile telephone networks, has reported a 63 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £122 million in the 28 weeks to October 12.

Sir Ernest Harrison, chairman, said the results were excellent.

He added: "All the company's business are performing well and the results for the full year will be good."

The interim dividend has been raised 248 per cent to 2.6p (0.745p).

He admitted, however, that

Bank of Scotland gives bad debt alert

By JONATHAN PRYNN

BANK of Scotland has given warning that its profits for the year will be adversely affected by an increase in bad debt provisions required by the present unfavourable business climate.

The warning came in a trading statement accompanying the announcement of a £100 million preference share issue by the bank to strengthen capital ratios.

The preference shares carry a 9.75 per cent coupon and will boost the bank's tier-one ratio from 5.5 to 6.15 per cent, one of the highest of any UK clearing.

Tier-one capital comprises ordinary and preference shares, the share premium account and retained profits. The bank has issued tier-one capital in December 1988, since when the ratio has declined from 6.5 to 5.5.

Analysts said the higher ratio would allow Bank of Scotland to continue to grow its fast-expanding loan book.

"There are still attractive deals coming through and the English banks have just about clammed up on lending," said Hugh Pyne of Robert Fleming Securities.

Tempus, page 29

Iranians seek to restore Opec's quotas

By MARTIN BARROW

IRAN is leading efforts to secure a firm commitment from Opec to restore oil production quotas, which were temporarily suspended in response to the economic embargo of Iraq and Kuwait.

Opec members meeting in Vienna for the bi-annual conference, which began yesterday, fear the world could be "awash with oil" once the Gulf confrontation is resolved, according to Sadek Boussena, Opec president and oil minister of Nigeria. A consequence of overproduction would be a dramatic fall in the oil price to below the pre-invasion level of \$18 a barrel.

In his opening address, Mr Boussena said oil consumers had left open the possibility of an oil glut by refusing to draw down oil stocks, which now cover 98 days of forward consumption. Following the suspension of quotas in September, Opec production has risen more quickly than expected and now stands at 22.9 million barrels per day, making good the loss of 4.5 million bpd from Iraq and Kuwait.

Mr Boussena reaffirmed Opec's intention to return to output levels of 22.5 million bpd if a peaceful solution is found. But Iran is believed to be seeking support for a formal declaration by the cartel to restore quotas, possibly before the end of the Gulf tension.

However, energy analysts believe the Vienna meeting is unlikely to yield concrete measures. Steve Turner, an analyst at Smith New Court in London, said: "Iran has less than a 10 per cent chance of securing any undertaking by Opec members now to restore quotas.

"Members will be reluctant to make any firm undertaking before knowing what the political map of Opec looks like once the situation in the Middle East settles down."

A pivotal role is held by Saudi Arabia, which has increased output from its official quota of 5.3 million bpd to 7.6 million bpd. The Saudis are unlikely to curtail production if Saddam Hussein emerges in a position of strength and with Iraq's military power intact.

Oil markets gave a muted response to Opec's meeting yesterday. In London, January Brent slipped 53 cents to \$26.45 a barrel, touching \$26.05 in early trading.

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Investor group forces Continental's hand in bid

By WOLFGANG MÖNCHAU
EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

THE gloves have come off in the bid battle between Pirelli and Continental, the European tyre makers. Continental is being forced to call an extraordinary shareholder meeting which will decide on its future.

Continental's board has so far resisted the call for a meeting, which must now be called within six weeks. Shareholders will decide whether to lift voting rights restrictions. Voting rights at Continental are limited to 5 per cent.

per cent in order to prevent hostile takeovers. The lifting of the rule is necessary for Pirelli to succeed in its attempt to take over its larger German rival.

The meeting was called by a small group of Continental's shareholders, led by Albert Vicari, a German businessman, who said that the group was unaffiliated to either party in the bid battle. The group, which holds more than 5 per cent of the shares, the level needed to call a meeting, said the move was necessary to clear up uncertainty.

Continental and Pirelli have dis-

associated themselves from Herr Vicari's move. Continental declined to comment but confirmed that the application has been received and will be looked into. Pirelli repeated its intention "to do its utmost to achieve industrial integration with Continental on the basis of an amicable negotiation".

Pirelli could have forced the meeting but such an act might have been regarded as openly hostile, particularly so since hostile takeover bids are still virtually unheard of in Germany. The call for a meeting came after John Craven, head of

Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank advising Continental, was reported to have spoken about problems between the two companies.

He was quoted in *Corriere della Sera*, the Italian daily newspaper, as saying: "It is true, the atmosphere is deteriorating."

Herr Vicari has proposed that Continental's shareholders should make a choice between independence of the company or acceptance of a takeover.

If the majority decided to keep Continental independent, the com-

pany should then vote to raise the level of approval needed for the abolition of voting right restrictions and changes to the supervisory board or substantial asset disposals from 50 per cent to 75 per cent. This would effectively make Continental bid-proof.

If, however, the shareholder's majority decided to open up Continental to outside control, the existing voting right restrictions should be cancelled immediately and the management board should be instructed to come to an agreement with Pirelli.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Benjamin Priest board back higher US offer

THE directors of Benjamin Priest, the marine products and engineering company, have recommended an increased offer from International Marine, the private American company, that values Priest at £59.3 million. The revised offer of 141½ p-a-share represents a 26.1 per cent increase on IM's opening shot of 112p in November and a 56.9 per cent premium to Priest's share price the day before the offer was announced.

John Grunow, the chairman of IM, said the exit price-earnings ratio of 10.4 represented by the revised offer was justified by the better than expected interim figures announced yesterday by Priest. Pre-tax profits for the six months to September 28 fell 4 per cent to £3.32 million with the interim dividend maintained at 1.5p.

Baggeridge drops 46%

REGINA Health & Beauty Products, the troubled royal jelly group, has granted options to Shiraz Malik-Noor, a barrister who is to join the board of Regina, that could lead to him owning up to 29.68 per cent of the company for a consideration of £650,000. Mr Malik-Noor, who has loaned £50,000 to the group, has an option to buy 10 million shares at 2p before the end of March 1991. Regina shares rose ½p to 2½p.

MSI profits collapse

PROFITS at MS International, the diversified engineering group, collapsed from £1.2 million before tax to just £10,000 during the six months to October, and earnings from 2.6p a share to 0.1p. The interim dividend is being maintained at 1p a share, resulting in a retained loss of £242,000 after tax, against a profit of £444,000.

Results were affected by a sharp downturn in the purchasing of defence equipment, including a formal period of severe purchasing restraint at the Ministry of Defence, which resulted in the postponement or cancellation of orders for non-urgent equipment. Michael Bell, chairman, said that although profits were traditionally weighed towards the second half, profits for the full year were unlikely to match the £3.7 million before tax for the previous 12 months.

Dividend up at Chemring

CHEMRING Group, the specialist defence company, reports a 15.6 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £3.97 million for the year to end-September. A final dividend of 17.95p (16.25p), made 26.95p, up 10 per cent.

Earnings per share fell to 56p (76.7p) and fully diluted to 48.6p (61.5p). Sales slipped by 2.5 per cent to £28.2 million. Ian Fairfield, the chairman, said that despite a difficult year, the order book was 34.2 per cent up.

Daimler in Japan talks

DAIMLER-BENZ is close to a deal under which Mitsubishi Motors will co-operate in the distribution of Mercedes-Benz cars in Japan. The aim is to double sales of Mercedes in Japan, already the German manufacturer's second largest market, to 70,000 within three years. Mr Toyoo Tate, chairman of Mitsubishi Motors Corporation, is expected to leave Stuttgart today after two days of talks with Daimler-Benz executives.

Classic boost for Fuller

PROFITS at Fuller, Smith & Turner, the West London brewer, have been boosted by Classic Ales, the beer wholesaler it acquired in January. Pre-tax profits for the six months to end-September rose by 11 per cent to £4.33 million on sales up 18 per cent to £34 million. Earnings per share rose 12 per cent to 11.5p and the interim dividend is 2.1p, an increase of 13 per cent. Beer volumes increased by 8 per cent.

The 44 pubs purchased from Allied-Lyons for £9 million did not come on stream until October and made no contribution to half-year profits but Anthony Fuller, the group's chairman, said they were trading well and he was optimistic about their potential. "There are currently many opportunities available to acquire further pubs. We are actively looking at the possibility of purchasing more but only at the right price," he said.

ALPHA STOCKS

	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
ADT	243	345	304	265
Airway Net	2,581	2,581	2,581	2,581
Alcan	1,695	2,000	2,000	2,000
Alcan Ind	1,282	1,282	1,282	1,282
Argos	504	1,003	1,003	1,003
ASDA	4,288	287	287	287
ASFA Foods	228	228	228	228
AVL	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
B&T	709	90	90	90
BET	2,114	478	478	478
BTH	1,385	2,475	2,475	2,475
BTC	2,002	2,475	2,475	2,475
Burdex	2,006	2,006	2,006	2,006
C&G	1,521	1,521	1,521	1,521
Cash & Carry	206	1,050	1,050	1,050
Caster	1,521	1,521	1,521	1,521
Catford Mill	7,373	7,373	7,373	7,373
CCIC	215	520	520	520
CCO Grid	2,422	2,422	2,422	2,422
CCO Ind	210	1,505	1,505	1,505
CCO Retail	1,698	1,698	1,698	1,698
EPS	3,287	1,840	1,840	1,840
Ex-Aero	280	52	52	52
F&P	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
FCI	4,004	1,517	1,517	1,517
For Land	3,650	3,650	3,650	3,650
For Stand	2,422	2,422	2,422	2,422
Globe	2,422	2,422	2,422	2,422
Grange	1,521	1,521	1,521	1,521
Grand Met	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050
GUS 'A'	2,222	2,222	2,222	2,222
GUS 'B'	2,222	2,222	2,222	2,222
GVA	1,201	1,201	1,201	1,201
Gunnells	1,505	1,505	1,505	1,505
H&C	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Hallstar	1,517	1,517	1,517	1,517
Hillwood	1,517	1,517	1,517	1,517
Hills	1,517	1,517	1,517	1,517
Holland	1,517	1,517	1,517	1,517
Hoppe	1,517	1,517	1,517	1,517
Hotchkin	220	220	220	220
Kingfisher	221	221	221	221
Kingsmead	1,517	1,517	1,517	1,517
Ladbrokes	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Land Sec	2,416	2,416	2,416	2,416
Leisure	2,422	2,422	2,422	2,422
Logistics	721	721	721	721
Lydia	721	721	721	721
Lydia Abc	319	319	319	319

WORLD MARKET INDICES

	Daily chg/c Value (\$)	Yearly chg/c Value (\$)	Daily chg/c Value (\$)	Yearly chg/c Value (\$)	Daily chg/c Value (\$)	Yearly chg/c Value (\$)
The World (free)	583.7	0.1	-30.8	0.3	-21.9	0.0
EAPE (free)	111.8	0.1	-20.8	0.2	-21.9	0.0
101.0	0.0	-54.7	0.2	-29.3	0.0	-21.2
Europe (free)	104.5	0.0	-34.8	0.1	-29.5	0.0
151.4	-0.2	-18.6	0.0	-16.1	-0.2	-1.9
Nth America (free)	134.1	-0.2	-18.0	-0.3	-15.4	-0.2
Nordic (free)	414.4	0.1	-23.0	0.1	-7.1	0.0
112.8	-1.0	-27.6	-0.6	-22.6	-1.0	-12.8
185.1	-1.0	-21.3	-0.6	-16.4	-1.0	-5.2
Pacific	2,233.5	0.2	-43.7	0.3	-37.3	0.1
Far East	323.0	0.2	-44.0	0.3	-36.1	0.1
Australia	234.5	0.3	-32.5	0.1	-16.2	0.2
Australia	1407.2	-1.4	-5.3	-0.9	-0.2	-1.1
Belgium	725.0	-1.1	-26.4	-0.8	-23.6	-1.2
Canada	415.7	-0.2	-30.1	0.0	-15.6	-0.2
Denmark	1108.2	-0.3	-15.8	0.0	-12.3	-0.3
Finland	67.2	-1.0	-41.7	-0.8	-38.0	-1.1
184.4	-2.4	-40.0	-2.1	-36.2	-2.3	-27.7
France	867.2	-0.2	-22.4	0.1	-18.3	-0.2
Germany	750.7	1.3	-18.2	1.7	-13.8	1.3
Hong Kong	2000.1	0.3	-9.8	0.3	8.8	0.2
Italy	257.1	0.0	-30.7	0.3	-26.1	-0.6
Japan	2397.7	0.2	-44.9	0.3	-39.2	0.1
Netherlands	734.8	-0.2	-22.3	0.0	-18.2	-0.3
New Zealand	53.9	-1.8	-47.7	-1.7	-37.6	-1.8
Norway	1131.8	-1.3	-15.7	-1.0	-10.7	-1.4
188.5	-1.2	-15.0	-0.8	-10.0	-1.3	-2.4
Sing/Malay	1474.6	1.8	-26.1	1.7	-19.7	1.7
Spain	177.5	-0.4	-25.0	-0.6	-22.0	-0.5
Sweden	1189.2	-1.1	-32.2	-0.8	-25.3	-1.2
174.1	-1.4	-28.1	-1.			

WALL STREET

Dow advance trimmed

New York

BLUE chips lost some gains in mid-morning as worries about a stagnant American economy offset hopes for another cut in interest rates by the Federal Reserve.

The Dow Jones industrial average was 6 points ahead at 2,592.14 after rising by as much as 16 points. In the

main market, rising shares narrowly outnumbered falls.

● Tokyo — Shares closed

higher after a day of moderate

volatility, rising on rumours

of easier credit, concerned

buyers by market-makers

and index-linked buying.

The Nikkei index ended up

42.44 points or 0.18 per cent,

at 23,999.41 (Reuters).

STOCK MARKET

Glow of the new electricity companies begins to fade

THE euphoria which surrounded this week's flotation of the dozen regional electricity companies is already showing signs of fizzling out as market-makers attempt to establish a dealing level for the shares.

The majority of share prices fell as did levels of turnover. But all the electricity shares were still showing big premiums on the partly-paid offer price of 100p. Among the falls, Eastern eased 1p to 147p as 10 million shares changed hands. East Midland lost 6p to 144p (£9.7 million shares), London Electric 2p to

139p (£5.7 million), Manweb

3p to 163p (13 million),

Midland 1p to 142p (13

million), Northern 1p to 151p

(6.6 million), Southern 3p to

146p (8.8 million), South

West 4p to 146p (6.1 million)

and Yorkshire 3p to 156p (1

11 million). But there were

rises for Northern, 3p to

146p (£5.7 million), Seaboard

1p to 146p (3.1 million) and

South Wales, 3p to 167p (9.5

million). The electricity pack-

age fell £30 to £1,478.

The rest of the equity mar-

ket spent another lacklustre

day, overshadowed by eco-

nomic worries and events

in the Gulf. The run-up to the

Christmas festivities also

seem to have started in

earnest and this will provide a

welcome distraction for many

fund managers. The FT-SE

100 index traded mainly in

narrow limits before closing

8.9 lower at 2,156.9. The FT

index of 30 shares shed 13.8 to

1,692.2.

Government securities saw

gains reduced by the nervous

sound and the attempt by

Norman Lamont, the Chan-

cellor, to pour cold water on

the market's hopes of a cut in

interest rates soon. Prices at

the longer end closed £0.1%

higher.

Thrusthouse Forte fell 9p to

254p. UBS Phillips & Drew

THF's broker, Warburg

Securities and Hoare Govett

have cut their profit estimates.

P&D is believed to have

reduced its forecast for the

current year from £227 mil-

lion to £208 million.

Locomotive rolling stock to

property and investment,

jumped 7p to 36p on the news

of a bid approach. IMI Securi-

ties says it is acting for a client

which is looking at the

possibility of making a bid. Jo

Malins resigned as chief exec-

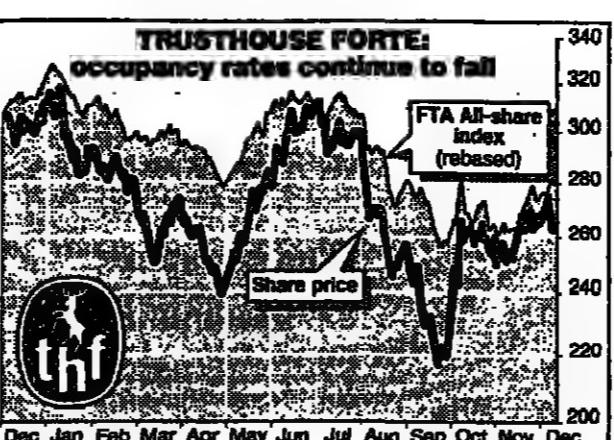
utive in October and last

month the group was forced to

make provisions totalling £7.1

million against investments

and other liabilities.



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Fitch RS, the design com-

pany, fell 12p to 31p after a

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dend. The recession was con-

tinuing to take its toll and

profits for the full year are

likely to be substantially

down.

Wickes, the do-it-yourself

and building products group,

continued to lose ground after

last Friday's profits warning,

slipping 4p to 53p. Group

borrowings are running at 275

per cent of shareholders'

funds.

Bank of Scotland eased 2p to

144p after issuing a warning

that trading conditions will

remain difficult until the

spring and that further pro-

visions against bad debts will

have to be made in the second

half-year. Analysis are now

downgrading their profit fore-

cast for the current year,

currently pitched at about

£220 million.

TIP Europe, the trailer

rental group, rose 8p to 64p in

response to this week's de-

cision by its bigger rival,

Tiphook, to buy a 9.9 per

cent stake in the shares. Robert

Montague, Tiphook's chair-

man, has said he has no

intention of making a hostile

bid. TIP Europe was floated at

125p a couple of years ago but

after hitting a peak of 222p,

it has seen its fortunes drop

sharply with analysts worried

about prospects. The price hit

a low of 35p this week.

Ransomes, the engineer, fell

19p to 75p after telling the

market that profits for the

current year will fall short of

expectations. Ransomes is

now forecasting £8.5 million.

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High	Low	Company	Prev.	Open	Close	Yd	P/W
74	75	ABN Amro	22	22	22	-1	22
72	73	ATA Selection	22	22	22	-1	22
70	71	ATL	22	22	22	-1	22
69	70	Aberdeen Gas Nat	22	22	22	-1	22
68	69	American Can	22	22	22	-1	22
67	68	Altria Group	22	22	22	-1	22
66	67	Altair Systems	22	22	22	-1	22
65	66	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
64	65	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
63	64	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
62	63	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
61	62	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
60	61	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
59	60	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
58	59	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
57	58	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
56	57	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
55	56	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
54	55	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
53	54	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
52	53	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
51	52	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
50	51	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
49	50	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
48	49	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
47	48	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
46	47	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
45	46	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
44	45	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
43	44	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
42	43	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
41	42	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
40	41	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
39	40	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
38	39	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
37	38	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
36	37	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
35	36	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
34	35	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
33	34	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
32	33	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
31	32	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
30	31	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
29	30	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
28	29	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
27	28	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
26	27	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
25	26	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
24	25	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
23	24	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
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18	19	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
17	18	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
16	17	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
15	16	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
14	15	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
13	14	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
12	13	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
11	12	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
10	11	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
9	10	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
8	9	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
7	8	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
6	7	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
5	6	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
4	5	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
3	4	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
2	3	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
1	2	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
0	1	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
22	23	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
21	22	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
20	21	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
19	20	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
18	19	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
17	18	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
16	17	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
15	16	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
14	15	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
13	14	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
12	13	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
11	12	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
10	11	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
9	10	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
8	9	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
7	8	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
6	7	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
5	6	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
4	5	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
3	4	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
2	3	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
1	2	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
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14	15	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
13	14	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
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9	10	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
8	9	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
7	8	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
6	7	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
5	6	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
4	5	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
3	4	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
2	3	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
1	2	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
0	1	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
22	23	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
21	22	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
20	21	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
19	20	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
18	19	Alstom	22	22	22	-1	22
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Whitaker rides high on a show-off

By JENNY MACARTHUR
JOHN Whitaker is about to complete the most successful year of his career. The European show jumping champion – he won the biennial title in 1989 – added to it the Volvo World Cup last April and, four months later, the individual silver medal at the world championships.

The successes have all come on Mr and Mrs Tom Bradley's Henderson Milton, the 13-year-old grey gelding whose superior jumping ability has earned him an unprecedented £720,000 in prize-money and a near-leg-endary status.

Whitaker, who was "surprised and delighted" to receive The Times/Minet Supreme Award of £5,000 to help with training costs for the Olympics, hopes that Milton will be the horse to take him to Barcelona. Speaking at his Yorkshire farmhouse about his plans, he said: "Milton will be 15 but, if he goes on jumping as he has been this year, I can't see any reason why he shouldn't still be at the top in Barcelona."

Usually, Milton is on the injury list. He is recovering from a respiratory virus he picked up three weeks ago and will miss the Olympia Show Jumping Championships on Thursday, when Whitaker, accompanied by his wife, Claire, and his three children, will be competing with three other horses from his substantial string. "It's the first sickness he's had in five years," Whitaker said.

Luck will need to play a part if Whitaker, aged 35, is to fulfil his Olympic aspirations. He has missed three of the last four Olympic Games, despite having an appropriate horse on each occasion. In 1976 he was dropped from the team at the last minute after Ryan's Son refused at the controversial final trial. In 1980 the equestrian teams supported the boycott of the Moscow Olympics. In 1988, when Milton was in his prime, Mr and Mrs Bradley decided that they did not want to risk sending Milton to Korea.

"I haven't talked to the Bradleys about Barcelona," Whitaker said. "But I don't think there will be any problems. As far as I understand, it was only Seoul they were worried about."

Whitaker, in common with other international riders, is concerned about recent out-

THE TIMES/MINET SUPREME AWARD



breaks of the deadly African horse sickness in the south of Spain but is confident that the International Equestrian Federation has made the right decision recommending that the equestrian Olympics go ahead in Barcelona.

"I am pretty sure the authorities would not risk allowing the horses to go there if there were a risk," Whitaker said. "It would be very sad to see the equestrian Olympics separated from the other events."

If there should be a problem with Milton, Whitaker has an able substitute in Henderson Gammon, a German-bred horse he nearly lost last year when he developed a lung infection shortly after being hobbled. Gammon returned to top competition 10 days ago at the Renault Jump final in Paris, where he was placed in third classes.

In February Milton will compete in some of the World Cup qualifiers before defending his World Cup title in Sweden in April. He will be rested again until the Hickstead Nations Cup meeting at the end of May, when the summer campaign starts.

Whitaker's aim for 1991 is to retain his World Cup and European title. The following year will see a similar build-up aimed at the Olympics.

Competitors are carefully selected to ensure that Milton keeps his edge. "He should have at least three competitive years left in him and hopefully five," Whitaker said. "He is not really over-worked. Last year he did 20 shows."

The Times/Minet Supreme Awards are part of a £2 million sponsorship package from Minet – the London-based firm of international insurance brokers – to help fund Britain's preparations for the 1992 Olympics. The awards, which are administered by the Sports Aid Foundation, are being made to sportspersons and sports-women whose outstanding performances have brought distinction and honour to British sport and are likely medal contenders.



Stable talk: Whitaker and the £5,000 award that will help with training costs

High-level Olympian rivalry

By JENNY MACARTHUR

ALTHOUGH John Whitaker, the European champion, is without Henderson Milton for the Olympia show jumping championships which start today in London, his substitute horse, Henderson Gammon, should give him a good chance of claiming his share of the £15,000 prize-money on offer.

Whitaker, who said yesterday that Milton was recovering well from the virus he caught last month, nearly lost Gammon last year, with a severe lung infection. But Gammon has proved none the worse for his ordeal. In Paris ten days ago, which was his first competition for a year, he was placed in three classes. Last weekend, in Frankfurt, he and Whitaker were tenth in the grand prix.

With Gammon, his second horse, also on form – they were second in a class in Frankfurt – Whitaker will decide tomorrow which of the two he will ride in the Volvo World Cup qualifier

on Saturday. As the holder of the World Cup, Whitaker automatically qualifies for the final in Sweden in April.

Whitaker, who is not so much a gambler and is relying on Olympia to gain some more World Cup points to add to the seven he collected in Washington. Despite a succession of four faults recently on Henderson Monza, they will be together again on Saturday. His second horse will be Tees Hanauer.

David Broome, Emma-Jane Mac, Robert Smith, Nick Skelton and Joe Turi, are also among the 19 British riders. Turi was third on Walsider in the Bordeaux qualifier, and Skelton has been enjoying a run of success on Phoenix Park, on which he has won more than £40,000 in the past year.

The pair have had a reassuring preparation for Olympia, finishing second in the grand prix in Paris, and fourth in Frankfurt. Skelton, who has less

World Cup points, will also be giving his top horse, Grand Slam, his first outing since Toronto last year.

The former contingent which, if all the horses arrive safely after yesterday's hazardous Chunnel crossing, is one of the most powerful in the 19 years of Olympia. Headed by the three leading riders in the World Cup European league, Roger-Yves Bost, of France, the winner in Bordeaux, and the two Dutchmen Jos Lansink and Jan Tops, it also includes Franck Sloothaek, of Germany, who will attempt a third successive win in the grand prix on Monday night, and the Belgian Ludo Philips, the winner of the Olympia World Cup qualifier in 1988.

• Mary Thompson has been voted the equestrian personality of the year by the British Equestrian Writers' Association. Marie Edgar won the Vivien Batchelor Trophy for the outstanding junior rider.

SPORTS LETTERS

When the analytical tail is wagging the body

From Dr Peter D. Rossdale
Sir, It is unfortunate that the arguments regarding the 3-hydroxycamphor (3-HC) found in the urine of Aliysa (report, December 6) have centred on the method of analysis and not on the system of interpretation of the results thereby obtained.

The competence of the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory at Newmarket has been called into question, in my opinion, unfairly. Each new generation of technology gives rise to data which challenge the ability to interpret their significance, as illustrated by the detailed review by the electron microscope. Chemical analysis is no different in this respect as we pass from the ability to identify substances at the level of a thousandth to that of a millionth of a gram weight.

In the process of administering justice relative to illegal medication, the analytical process is the tail that wags the body, in this instance the Jockey Club. Once a "positive" sample

one cannot expect some people in the advertising industry to know anything about the virtues of the boxing profession.

The advertisement implies that I am a gypsy, the race of the horse, the case of the 3-HC found in the Aga Khan's racehorse, Aliysa, raises some interesting questions and leaves a mystery.

That 3-HC was found in the horse does not seem in doubt (how much was not stated; are we allowed to know?). This fact is often accepted by both sides. Why, then, so much criticism of the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory by the Aga Khan's own scientists? (Are they independent?) Of course not.

The picture of me shows the result of a tough fight which I lost with honour. Sugar Ray Leonard's picture appears to be a glamorised studio portrait.

While I have nothing against the gypsy race, the statement that I am a gypsy is untrue. If the remaining claims of the advertisement were researched to a similar standard, then they can't count for much.

Yours faithfully,
TOM SIBSON,
14 Main Street,
Quenibrough, Leicester.

Betting defined

From Mr Simon Cawkwell
Sir, Your report of the expectation of reduced betting turnover (December 6) and then Simon Barnes's comment (December 7) on the effect of a Tote monopoly fail to draw upon an understanding of the matter in hand.

For betting on horses is a form of conversation in figures, demanding that the participants enumerate, without proof, in relation to any particular transaction: it is only the total that indicates the proof; and it is only the bookmaking industry that provides the adding machine – the Tote is simply an outlet for the illiterate and pathetic.

But although one must deplore the concentration of the

bookmaking industry, it is essential to see it in the context of massive taxation having largely eliminated its appeal. (I write with some feeling, my personal betting tax bill for the 1980s having exceeded £150,000.)

The solution to racing's problem lies in the hands of those who hold the copyright to the results. It is open to them to insist upon a levy of three per cent rather than one per cent and (as it surely would) cause reduced turnover (but a higher yield for racing) and, finally, persuade the Treasury to reverse its long-term destruction of an industry and its finesse.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON CAWKWELL,
38a Abberton Place, NW8.

bookmaking industry, it is

Keeping league and union in perspective

From the Secretary of the Rugby Football Union

Sir, Since it seems to be open season for carping comment, perhaps you would be good enough to allow me a little space to deal with the antipathy which your chief sports correspondent, David Miller, obviously feels towards rugby union football.

His eulogy of the Great British rugby league team's opening win over Australia (November 24) was something in which we could all share, and indeed I wrote to the chief executive of the Rugby Football Union to offer our congratulations, but I was not told why Mr Miller had to use the opportunity to mount an attack upon Rugby Football Union football, which is an entirely different game.

It is not part of our policy to criticise the league code and, indeed, I would not be without it, since it provides a form of rugby for those who wish to play for cash rewards. However, it is important to keep the two games in perspective.

Great Britain is a bit of a misnomer for a game played professionally in only the four northern counties and rugby league is approximately 10 per cent of the size of rugby union

this country. It is played in some half a dozen countries in the world, whereas there are now 46 members of rugby union's international Board, 36 of them competing in next year's World Cup. Of course, size is not everything and I do not record those facts in order to score points.

Mr Miller's comparison of the length of time the ball is in play is little short of famous. We have a version of the union game known as seven-a-side in which the ball is in play for longer than in either the 15-a-side game or the 13-a-side game, but that is about as relevant as the same argument would be in cricket or even snooker.

His suggestion that the union game does not hold the spectators' attention in the way that league does is equally bizarre. I suppose we could redesign our game to make it more intelligible to the less gifted spectator, but why should we? The players find it enjoyable to play, which we regard as very important, and tickets for our major matches are over-subscribed fourfold. We have attendances of well over 50,000 for the not-quite-so-important games, such as this week's University match, to which Mr Miller also turned

out.

The large number of non-English players is nothing new, and no doubt reflects the cosmopolitan nature of the two universities. There were only four Englishmen, of whom I was one, in the 1953 Oxford side. The call signs were in Africans, which I did not understand, and that is probably why we only drew.

Yours faithfully,
DUDLEY WOOD,
Rugby Football Union,
Twickenham.

ing their main entrance from secondary schools.

Camborne St Edmund's five, Hughes Hall three, Magdalene three, Robinson two, Jesus and Sidney Sussex one each. The last four colleges are the undergraduate colleges.

This week hundreds of pupils from British secondary schools have been attending interviews at Oxford and Cambridge in an attempt to gain places via the normal competitive channels. Many of them will be excellent rugby players, yet the figures above suggest that in the vast majority of admissions tutors have no interest in their sporting

talent and that if they did gain admission, they would have little chance of winning a Blue.

In the Sixties, the rules did not allow a student to represent the university more than four years after matriculation at that university and no student could represent both universities.

These rules should be brought into line and further extended to include matriculation from any university.

Yours faithfully,
A. N. McDonald,
Footwood House,
Footmell Hill,
Blandford, Dorset.

December 5), David Powell quotes Illyd Harrington as saying that the marathon has become "a personal piece of

the council meeting because he knows, as we all do, that the marathon belongs to those who run in it and those who turn out in all weathers, to spur them on – often the same people who have dug deep into their pockets to help the runners to raise the vast sums for the charities that are close to their hearts.

It proves – as was originally intended – that on occasions the family of man can be united.

Yours sincerely,

CHRIS BRASHER and JOHN DISLEY.

The London Marathon,
Richmond Gate Lodge,
Richmond Park,
Richmond, Surrey.

Not enough credit

From Mr Chris Brasher and Mr John Disley

Sir, May we correct an error in

The Times of December 6 which reported that the council

of management of the London

Marathon had agreed to "review

its management".

We declare our interest and take

no part in the decision. The

award is made by the AAA

directors and the marathon

accountant and they have al-

ways chosen the highest bidder.

Maybe our company has been

the winner more often than not

over the last ten years because

we have always urged the com-

pany to put the maximum

amount possible into sports –

orientating, fell running –

which have given us so much

enjoyment.

In another article (*The Times*,

5 December),

Chris Brasher and John Disley

are quoted as saying that the

marathon has become "a per-

sonal piece of the council

meeting because he knows,

as we all do, that the marath-

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ties that are close to their hearts.

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intended – that on occasions

the family of man can be uni-

tated.

Yours sincerely,

CHRIS BRASHER and JOHN

DISLEY.

The London Marathon,

Richmond Gate Lodge,

Richmond Park,

Richmond, Surrey.

England suffering from an over-limited system

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
SYDNEY

HARD work, according to Micky Stewart, is the only answer to the ills of the England cricket team. A perusal of the Australian side suggests that the manager is missing the point.

A sick man does not benefit from being told to run around the block every morning, and cricketers who are being outpointed by all-comers do not dramatically improve for spending an extra hour on the practice ground. In both cases, what is missing is not the will, but the necessary equipment for the job.

Australia may practise with more obvious relish than

England: much of this stems from playing less cricket. But the gulf between the teams in the World Series Cup one-day competition has its roots not in the nets, but in the fundamentals of method, flair and adaptability.

Since Boxing Day last year, Australia have played 23 one-day internationals and won 20 of them. They have not met West Indies, a contest to be anticipated in the spring, but have beaten every other Test-playing country, with only Pakistan recording success against them.

In that same period England have managed two wins in 11 internationals. They have lost to West Indies, India, New Zealand and Australia and their only victories have been against the

New Zealand side they meet again in Sydney today. Not so long ago England, though a second-rate Test team, could be confident of beating any one at ovens cricket. Now, it seems they have mislaid the key to the game. Or, perhaps, it has been confiscated by the Australians.

For one thing, their public demands it. Almost 40,000 turned up on Tuesday night in Melbourne to see an utterly predictable win over New Zealand. Steve Waugh explained: "You can't take any of these games easily, just because there are so many of them. The crowds come out to see you play and expect you to perform every time you walk on to the ground."

Waugh is one of the reasons Australia have become such a formidable unit. A high-class strokemaker who

enjoys them. Border admits he once regarded limited-overs games only as a light break from weightier matters; success has altered that, and all Australians now jealously guard their record and reputation.

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O'Donnell in the order as an expendable, but singularly effective, hitter. Already, there is talk that Steve Waugh will be the one delegated to attack England in Brisbane on Sunday. Versatility is all in this side.

Measures of their depth are plentiful. Mark Taylor, who has an outstanding batting average in Test cricket, has been unable to reclaim his one-day place after injury. Bruce Reid has been omitted from several games and Carl Rackemann was left out on Tuesday having bowled superbly in the previous match against England.

Border justifies all this by saying that the top players need an occasional rest. Ailley, but without fear of contradiction, he talks of

putting out his best side "in the important games". The pertinent point, however, is that whoever comes into the team knows his job.

Watch the Australian batsmen dashing between the wickets and compare it with England's desultory running. Watch the uniform excellence of the Australian fielding, from the predatory reflexes of Border and Mark Waugh in the catching positions at short cover and mid-wicket, to the outfitting of the multi-talented Jones Lewis aside, England do not begin to compare. Put together these two aspects and Australia may start with an advantage of 30 runs.

On Tuesday in Bowral, England encountered the next generation of Australians. Darren Lehmann and Michael Bevan have the flair and talent to be pushing for international places before the winter is out, yet both are only 21 years old.

Leaving Bowral, empty-handed and downhearted, England's players heard that Border had once more been named Australia's most popular sportsman and, as if to prove it, Sunday's game in Brisbane was already sold out.

Everywhere they turn, England are finding evidence of Australia's power at this game, and it is a trend they will not easily reverse, least of all with a school report which simply says "must try harder". Effort is not the problem. It is quality that is elusive.

TENNIS

Latecomer Gilbert argues his way into quarter-finals

MUNICH (Reuters) — Brad Gilbert, a late replacement, survived arguments with officials and early trouble with his serve to beat the No. 6 seed, Jonas Svensson, of Sweden, in the first round of the \$6 million Grand Slam Cup here yesterday.

Gilbert, ranked tenth in the world and a quarter-finalist at Wimbledon this year, beat Svensson 2-6, 6-3, 6-4, to reach the quarter-finals of the 16-round event.

The American, who took the place of his compatriot, Andre Agassi, when the No. 4 pulled out, is unseeded here despite being ranked nine places higher than Svensson. Seedings in Munich are based on grand slam performances.

Several players in Munich have been unhappy with the line calls and Gilbert protested when a young judge signalled he had not seen a ball which the American considered out on the first of three set points in the second set.

Stephen Winyard, the British umpire, ruled that the ball was in, giving Svensson the chance to stay in the set. Gilbert ranted

at the red-faced line judge but was forced to accept the decision.

Although he dropped the second set point as well, Gilbert, who has won three singles titles this year, produced a winning serve on the third.

The controversy served to fire Gilbert up. He broke Svensson's service in the opening game of the deciding set after the Swede, a semi-finalist at the French Open, had saved three break points.

Svensson fought hard in a series of long games, but he invariably lost the baseline rallies and rarely threatened Gilbert on his service.

Gilbert's service began to falter again just when he needed it most, serving for the match at 5-4. Svensson twice produced winning returns to get to break point, but Gilbert fought back to match point and then produced a service winner.

"I started a bit sloppy in the first set and got a bit frustrated," Gilbert said. "But he competed well."

The winner of this tournament will get \$2 million.

ATHLETICS

Different weights in view

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

IN AN attempt to wipe the slate clean in the wake of many disclosures and countless allegations over drug-taking in the sport, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) may consider introducing new specifications for the implements used in the three heavy throws: the shot, discus and hammer.

Such a measure, which would mean beginning afresh in the events in which competitors stand to benefit the most from performance-enhancing steroids, could become a subject for discussion at the IAAF council meeting in San Sebastian next month.

"Field events and doping have a strong association and we could be talking about having a new starting-line," Franco Fava, the IAAF spokesman, said. "For a young athlete wanting to

practise the shot and challenge the record without any illegal help, it is discouraging to see the record at 23 metres and one way round that could be to change the weight of the implements. I can confirm now that the president [Primo Nebiolo] is not against this idea, but it needs more discussion."

Randy Barnes, the shot world record holder, and Butch Reynolds, the 400 metres world record holder, have each been suspended for two years after failing drugs tests, though their records will be allowed to stand.

All three members of the US men's national sports magazines that Olympic and world champion swimmers and athletes took drugs and which have led to an investigation by the country's Olympic Committee for High Performance Sport have heightened awareness of the problem.

Fava said: "We cannot cancel the records, but in the field events we can change the weights and start new clean records." Fava added. He added that new specifications would be worthwhile only if the IAAF increased its out-of-competition random testing and all member federations behaved consistently with its policy.

He was critical of the decision by the Athletics Congress (TAC), which governs the sport in the United States, to reinstate Larry Myricks, the world indoor long jump champion in April. Myricks, like many like him, relies on training regimens on three occasions but can now return to competition next year, though too late to defend his world title in Seville in March. "It cannot be right that Myricks is allowed to carry on," Fava said.

SKIING

Women face downhill deprived of practice

MEIRINGEN, Switzerland (Reuters) — Freezing rain and heavy snow yesterday forced the cancellation of timed practice runs for tomorrow's World Cup women's downhill race on the Flumserberg course.

Practice was impossible on Tuesday but the run itself was in good condition and today's official timed practice to determine the starting order should go ahead, organisers said.

An attempt by national team coaches to cancel Sunday's World Cup women's giant slalom here has failed. The trainers, critical of course conditions, wanted the race to be held next week at Morzine, another Swiss resort, but local organisers refused to give way.

The favourite in the downhill

will be Katrin Gutensohn, of Germany, the reigning downhill champion, who won the only race of the season so far last week in Altenmarkt, Austria. Her nearest rival overall 1989-90 World Cup champion, Petra Kronberger, of Austria, who came second in Altenmarkt by only 0.16 seconds.

Kronberger has won all the season's three other races — a slalom, giant-slam and super-giant slalom.

VAL GARDENA: Franz Heinzler, of Switzerland, second in the season's opening men's World Cup downhill race, was easily the fastest in the first official training run at this Italian resort yesterday for a double downhill tomorrow and on Saturday (Reuters reports).

OVERSEAS CRICKET

First-class case for North Harbour

By SIMON WILDE

DURHAM are not the only team in the past few weeks to have been campaigning for first-class status. North Harbour, in New Zealand, has recently confirmed that it is to apply to join the Shell Trophy, the national competition, from either 1991-2 or the season after.

North Harbour's bid is more complicated than was Durham's. Durham is an established minor county side; North Harbour is no more than a region of Auckland, which has a team of its own. However, Auckland's cricket association, which can draw on the country's largest provincial population (about one million, one third of New Zealand's community), has agreed to principle to the cession of North Harbour, who would thus be able to call on such internationals as Dipak Patel, Willie Watson, Philip Horne and John Bracewell.

Like Durham, North Harbour

plan to play at a new stadium, the North Shore, in Albany, Eden Park, the Auckland Test ground, has already donated to Albany its No. 3 stand. North Harbour would be the first new entrant to the New Zealand championship for 25 years.

In the opening round of Shell Trophy matches, Matthew Maynard, who is spending the first winter of his five-year England tour with Northern Districts against Sri Lanka, spent his time away constructively. For Bonny against Gojain in the Ranji Trophy, he compiled 258 not out, the highest score of his 15-year career.

Both Tasmania and South Australia are still without a point in the Sheffield Shield after the final day of their match in Hobart was washed out. With 137 not out for Tasmania, Jamie Cox more than doubled his season's aggregate.

The only team to win outright was Canterbury, who was omitted from India's party for the one-day internationals against Sri Lanka, spent his time away constructively. For Bonny against Gojain in the Ranji Trophy, he compiled 258 not out, the highest score of his 15-year career.

Both Tasmania and South

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Kingston out to beat Europe's best



Holding court: Cadle makes a point to his players in training for tonight's big game

Cadle's crusade takes tilt at British tolerance of defeat

By NICHOLAS HARLING

THE message on the wall in Kevin Cadle's office could not be more direct: "Anyone who has a clean desk has a sick mind." Cadle is anything but clean, but his philosophy could not be more orderly. Winning is everything; coming second does not count.

He was critical of the decision by the Athletics Congress (TAC), which governs the sport in the United States, to reinstate Larry Myricks, the world indoor long jump champion in April.

It is why the American coach will permit no thoughts of failure in Salomón tonight, when he leads out on to the first British basketball club to teach him. When the call came to leave, he had deprived them of two of the three trophies at stake.

Now back in England with the new franchise at Tolworth, after a return to Scotland when Kingmoor became Rangers for season 1990-91, Cadle acknowledges the superior individual talent of at least three rival clubs in the Carlsberg League. "But we have got them all beat when it comes to the mentality of what it takes to be successful."

Like many successful coaches, Cadle's doctrine is an amalgam of the most positive aspects of the modern player as seen under in American universities. "I implemented all that I had learned and put it into a programme for me. I would have been unwise if I had not taken all the best qualities from

these people and not used them."

He was glad, nevertheless, to leave Texas, where he had been coaching at Angelo State University, to join the Lone Star State was so full of bigots that he had to move to Atlanta.

When the call came to leave, he was through another black man, that charismatic player, Bobby Kizer, his old room-mate at Penn State University.

It came from Falkirk, where Cadle was to start his years of monopolising the honours as a coach in Britain. He had been deprived of his ambition of making it as a player in the National Basketball Association. "Basically I had that permanent injury; I was not good enough."

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monopolising the honours as a coach in Britain. He had been deprived of his ambition of making it as a player in the National Basketball Association. "Basically I had that permanent injury; I was not good enough."

Like many successful coaches, Cadle's doctrine is an amalgam of the most positive aspects of the modern player as seen under in American universities.

"I implemented all that I had learned and put it into a programme for me. I would have been unwise if I had not taken all the best qualities from

these people and not used them."

He was glad, nevertheless, to leave Texas, where he had been coaching at Angelo State University, to join the Lone Star State was so full of bigots that he had to move to Atlanta.

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SPORT

Yorkshire refuse Jarvis's request to leave county

By MARTIN SEARCY

YORKSHIRE have refused a written request by Paul Jarvis, their fast bowler, to be released from his contract and will insist he fulfils the final summer of a four-year term. The decision was taken by the full general committee at Headingley yesterday at an emergency meeting.

"He has considerable ability and if he used it for the benefit of himself and this club he would achieve the success he says he seeks," Brian Walsh, QC, the club chairman, said. He confirmed that the county received an official request yesterday following a verbal intimation from Jarvis that he wanted to leave.

Jarvis, aged 25, the youngest player to represent Yorkshire, was called before the cricket committee on Tuesday to answer questions about remarks made to the media concerning the county's refusal to sign an overseas player. After complicated negotiations neither side was willing to discuss what took place but it was clear that any attempt to reprimand him founders in the presence of

his legal representative.

The unanimous decision was to retain a disaffected player who has topped their bowling averages in four of the last five seasons to stay would appear slim and, at his best, Jarvis is the sort of bowler who would be the envy of the other 16 counties not least because he still has to serve four years of a five-year England ban for touring South Africa, and would be regularly available for county cricket.

Jarvis feels too much of a burden has already been placed on his shoulders and can see little success ahead for the county unless they change an attitude which he has publicly described as "living in the Dark Ages."

He wants to join a county which has a deep-seated desire for success and is willing to give its team rather more chance of achieving it than he believes Yorkshire are. He has already refused a two-year extension of his contract and, if he proves intractable, will be a loss to the county since he is the first real bowling talent to be unearthed since Chris Old made his debut in 1966.

However creditable the youth schemes at the county's academy may be, it will be a number of years before any capable replacements emerge, with Yorkshire's bowling resources so thin, there would appear to be a number of lean summers ahead.

The other matter on the agenda was to discuss the academy at Bradford's Park Avenue ground and this has now been given charitable status.

Chris Old, of Yorkshire and England, is under consideration, but attracting candidates of similar stature has proved problematical.

MCC continues search

AN MCC working party convenes today to discuss the candidates for the post of head cricket coach in the aftermath of the resignation of Don Wilson and Martin Robinson, his assistant, both now employed at Ampleforth College (Stephen Thorpe writes).

Lt Colonel John Stephen, the MCC secretary, said: "It is not an easy post to fill and we don't necessarily need another Don Wilson, which

would be a difficult proposition anyway. Everyone is his own man and the job may well be tailored to the individual."

The eventual choice will probably be a former Test player and fully qualified coach with a strong bowling background.

Chris Old, of Yorkshire and England, is under consideration, but attracting candidates of similar stature has proved problematical.

One-day wonders, page 36



Staying put: Paul Jarvis, whose services are still required by Yorkshire

Thorburn selected as players' voice

By OWEN JENKINS

PAUL Thorburn sees his inclusion on the Welsh Rugby Union amateurism committee as a "step in the direction that everybody's been asking for". Thorburn has been chosen to represent the players on the committee, established following the relaxation of the amateur regulations.

He said: "My involvement will be to convey the ideas of the players to the committee and to see what can be obtained and what can't be. I would imagine that there will be some involvement on the marketing side with a company which has expertise in this matter."

Tottenham put up prices by £2

By DENNIS SIGNY

THE financial difficulties of Tottenham Hotspur were emphasised yesterday with the news that they are to increase their seat prices by £2 for non-member supporters, starting with the Barclays League fixture against Manchester United on New Year's Day. The rise comes despite an increase in their average attendance at White Hart Lane this season following the success of their players in the World Cup.

No one seems to be sure what we can or can't do," Rob Andrew, the Wasps and England stand-off half, said, "or how each union will interpret the regulations."

The amateur regulations were also the subject of a meeting between Dudley Wood, the Rugby Football Union secretary, and four members of the England squad late on Tuesday.

Three pools companies,

Littlewoods, Zetters and Vernons, provide funds from their spot-the-ball competition to the Football Trust, which helps clubs with development projects.

Yarranton added that it was "clearly imperative" that the lottery would be launched using tried and tested methods so that sport as a whole would benefit.

The council is to discuss with the Lottery Promotions Company, whose directors include the Earl of Harwood, Eddie Kulukundis, the impresario, and Lord Birken, how best to provide financial

The price increases will come into effect the day after the annual general meeting of the club's parent company, Tottenham Hotspur plc. Shareholders have been warned that the year's figures will be "disappointing" and steps need to be taken to increase revenue and that players, although not Gascoigne or Lineker, may have to sold.

Tottenham are still hoping to raise £13 million from a rights share issue underwritten by Robert Maxwell, the newspaper publisher and chairman of Derby County.

The average Tottenham attendance after nine League games at White Hart Lane this season is 32,840, compared with 26,433 last season. The success of Paul Gascoigne and Gary Lineker with the Eng-

land team has meant that attendances have exceeded 30,000 at all bar the matches against Wimbledon and Derby County. More than 35,000 watched the home game against Liverpool even though it was shown live on ITV.

The top crowd-pullers in the first division are Manchester United (43,973 average), Arsenal (37,928) and Liverpool (37,864). The first two games at White Hart Lane with the new prices are against United and Arsenal in January, with Leeds United, Everton and Chelsea soon to follow.

Prices of some clubs, such as Arsenal, Chelsea and Crystal Palace, are graded according to the opposition. Tottenham charge the same for all games.

advice that a national lottery would attract new money.

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The council is to discuss with the Lottery Promotions Company, whose directors include the Earl of Harwood, Eddie Kulukundis, the impresario, and Lord Birken, how best to provide financial

support towards the necessary research.

There is a growing belief in parliament that now Mrs Thatcher, who was opposed to a national lottery on moral grounds, is no longer prime minister, the Government might support a national lottery.

This could raise £1 billion a year within three years and equally benefit the arts, sport and the environment.

There is a concern that unless Britain has its own lottery by the end of 1992, it would be swamped by European lottery mail, because many continental countries have flourishing schemes.

This may well force the Government to act over the next two years.

The scheme should receive support from the Treasury because it could eventually result in the profits from the lottery replacing tax-payers' money, which is now used to support the arts, and the environment.

Last summer the lottery was the subject of a Private Member's bill, sponsored by Ken Hargreaves, the Tory MP for Hindhead, which was lost when it failed to achieve government support.

Peter Palumbo, the chairman of the Arts Council, has already supported the principle of the lottery, although the council itself has yet to give its approval.

As if the circumstances were not extraordinary enough, the fixture itself opened with the most bizarre 45 minutes witnessed by Lawrie McMenemy, Taylor's assistant. As a violent thunderstorm raged overhead, the floodlights went out before each side was reduced to ten

FA's trial by video could condemn Webb

By STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

NEIL Webb, who was sent off during England's B international in Algeria on Tuesday, could pay a heavier penalty than at first seemed likely. The Football Association is to study the video evidence and the verdict, which is expected to be announced before the end of the weekend, is unlikely to be

of shooting against Sweden in the World Cup qualifying tie in Stockholm 15 months ago, his career has regressed. From being an automatic choice for his country, he is now no longer considered a permanent fixture by his club.

Although he recovered sufficiently from his injury to be included in the World Cup squad last summer, his one abbreviated appearance represented no more than a token gesture.

Bobby Robson brought him on as a substitute in the closing play-off game against Italy in Bari.

Since taking over from Robson, Taylor has consistently maintained his belief in Webb. He has picked him in all three of his England squads so far and, although he has not yet invited him to play a role even as a substitute, he indicated that his patience would be rewarded.

The victim of an illegitimate forceful tackle by Rahim, the Algerian who was also sent off, Webb reacted angrily. Although he restrained himself almost instantly, he is seen to raise his hands in a threatening manner and, under the FA's strict disciplinary code, his momentary loss of temper could have grave consequences.

Graham Kelly, the chief executive of the FA, has contacted Peter Swales, the chairman, and further discussions involving the four councillors who were present in Algeria will probably take place tomorrow. Webb, only the seventh England international to be sent off, offered his version of events during the return journey. He claims that he is innocent.

Webb, sent off once before in his career, admitted that what happened in Algeria was the blackest moment of his career. "I've been in football a long time and I don't think I've been so disappointed," he said. "I'm not someone to go around striking people. It's not my style."

Ever since Webb damaged his Achilles tendon in the act of lunging at an opponent in retaliation, he was subsequently suspended for three senior internationals. Although he was recalled after he had served his sentence, he was never again to be regarded as a genuine contender for a place in the England side.

Prophetic words from Taylor

By STUART JONES

AS GRAHAM Taylor sat in the Olympic stadium in Algeria, he warned that the England B squad's tale of woe was not necessarily over.

Apart from holding Luton on Sunday, 26 hours after initially leaving his home in Sutton Coldfield, fail that the exercise was worthwhile. Since he plans to extend the B team's programme, it was scarcely in his interests to offer anything other than a positive view.

Little could he have known then how prophetic his words were to be. The party which had struggled through blizzards to reach Luton on Sunday arrived back in the early hours of yesterday morning to find that the airport had been plunged into darkness.

For the second time in nine hours, the team was the victim of a power failure. The luggage and the kit had to be conveyed from the plane in trolleys and deposited in the lounge, where the 63 passengers groped around in an attempt to identify their property.

Instead of emphasising the need to speed up the approach, he spent his half-time talk rearranging a line-up which had become unbalanced after the dismissal of Neil Webb. Further changes were enforced when he discovered that Gary Pallister and Mel Sterland had sustained slight injuries.

Amid all of the troubles, there were shafts of light. Taylor is convinced that Gary Mabbutt, for example, could be recalled to the senior side should one of the central defenders be unavailable. He described the performances of Ian Wright and Nigel Clough as "plus factors".

Larger goals may prove a winner with Fifa

COMMENT

RODDY FORSYTH looks at some of the proposals for change being considered in Zurich today by football's governing body

of the ideas are impractical, even when they sound plausible and originate from those highly placed in the game.

Take, for example, an idea from Bobby Robson, who thought that rather than employ penalty kicks to decide a game, play should continue until one team scores. Fifa has considered Robson's plan but decided against it because every match in the World Cup is broadcast live via satellites which have to be booked for specific durations, an arrangement already strained by the penalty-kick arrangement.

There is also a medical consid-

eration between Argentina and Yugoslavia in Florence this summer, most of the players were, in the words of a Fifa official, "very nearly dead on their feet".

Which team from northern Europe would wish to contest an indefinitely extended game at, say, high altitude or in extreme heat?

The most likely proposals to be referred to Fifa, which alone can alter the laws of the game, are the expansion of the goals, reduction of the number of players during extra time and a change in the offside law so that no player could be offside if the ball was played to him from his own half.

Larger goals was a favourite theme of Jack Mowat, who was for many years the chairman of the Scottish Football Association referee supervisors' committee, but although it was mentioned at Fifa meetings, it was never formally proposed. Ironically, Mowat was the referee for Real Madrid's 7-3

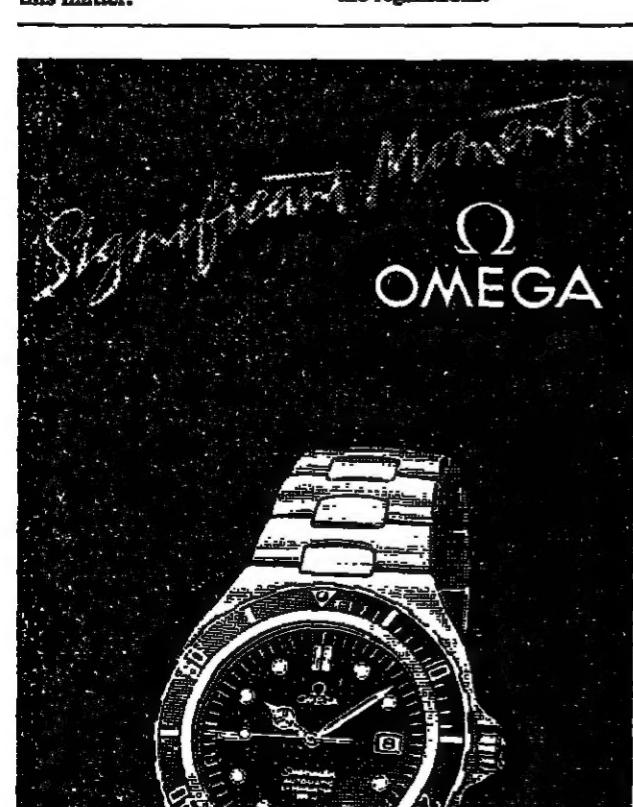
final between Argentina and Yugoslavia in Florence this summer, most of the players were, in the words of a Fifa official, "very nearly dead on their feet".

Which team from northern Europe would wish to contest an indefinitely extended game at, say, high altitude or in extreme heat?

"My feeling is that in some quarters there is a little bit of panic about because there were so few goals in Italy and because everyone agreed that the standard of football had declined. I would have thought that changes in the format of the World Cup, which would encourage teams to score more goals, would be a much more attractive prospect than changing the structure of the game which, after all, has served us

very well for a very long time." This, perhaps, is the heart of the matter. The arrangements for the World Cup finals have been so altered to maximise the television audience that only eight teams departed after the first stage in Italy. Since modern finalists are much more alike in fitness and coaching than their predecessors, it was inevitable that the opening sectional games would frequently be an exercise in avoiding defeat rather than winning, notably in group F, where England, the Republic of Ireland and the Netherlands played for safety.

Here, surely, Fifa might borrow from the Football League with profit. If three points were awarded for a win and one for a draw, the cut-off point for qualification would be much less predictable, denying scope for progress with three cynically drawn games, which was an option employed in Italy.



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